

THE EPOCH TIMES

LIFE &

TRADITION

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CULTURE



Mentors come in all forms and guises. What they have in common is that they help others discover their talents or lend their wisdom when difficult decisions must be made.

The Value of Mentors

The guides who make us better people

JEFF MINICK

In 1941, when the Nazis were ruling Poland with an iron hand, a Krakow tailor with an eighth-grade education and a burning love for his faith founded a youth ministry in his parish.

One of the first young men to join this group was a manual laborer, Karol Wojtyla. As he studied with the intense Jan Tyranowski, he caught the flame of this man's religious passion and became a priest in 1946. Later he would write of Tyranowski: "In his words, in his spirituality and in the example of a life given to God alone, he represented a new world that I did not yet know. I saw the beauty of a soul opened up by grace."

In 1978, Karol Wojtyla became John Paul II, pope of the Roman Catholic Church. Among his other accom-

plishments, while in the Vatican he helped bring about the end of communism in Poland and the fall of the Soviet Union.

Had it not been for the guidance and inspiration of the tailor Tyranowski, it's quite possible that Karol Wojtyla would have never become a priest. It's also possible the world as we know it today would be a very different place. Mentors matter.

A Grand Variety of Folks

These guides come from all walks of life.

That old guy who spends his afternoons sitting on his stoop shares a lifetime of wisdom and experience with the 12-year-old kid down the block. That demanding 30-something gymnastics coach drives her athletes to excel, but after practice,

she spends an hour consoling and counseling a girl whose heart has been broken by her parents' divorce.

Most of us have benefited from such people. We may not think of them as mentors until long after seeking their advice, but they're the ones who help us discover our talents or guide us through some tough decisions. Often for young people, these guides are coaches, teachers, or church youth leaders, but they can also include a beloved aunt, a friend, or even a sibling.

One of the best mentors I've ever seen in action was Dr. Thomas Renard of Asheville, North Carolina. He coached my youngest son's homeschool basketball team and led these young men to victory after victory, but he was also their guide and confidant. When he'd drive some of the

players to games, he'd give them mini-lectures on everything from world affairs to desirable qualities to look for in a future spouse. Next to my own influence—his mother died when Jeremy was 8—Tom had a deeply profound effect on the moral formation of my son.

The Professor

Though some people deliberately set out to mentor others—the attorney who takes a young colleague under her wing or the pastor who counsels married couples—others fall into this role by accident.

John Cuddeback, a professor of philosophy for 26 years at Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia, and author of "True Friendship: When Virtue Becomes Happiness," discovered long ago that the classroom discussions of thinkers such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and Aquinas brought students into his office for one-on-one conversations on how they might practically apply these ideas in everyday life.

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TIMELESS WISDOM FOR MODERN TIMES

Self-Reliance and Our Sacred Inner Genius

Cultivating independent thinking and integrity is especially relevant today

RYAN MOFFATT

The need to protect the integrity of our own minds is an idea with a long history.

It was examined by American transcendentalist thinkers such as Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson, who both denounced the conformity of their age.

An essayist, lecturer, poet, and philosopher, Emerson remains one of the most influential writers in the American canon. His seminal essay "Self-Reliance," published in 1841, is both timeless and timely reading.

As Emerson noted of American



Ralph Waldo Emerson.



Henry David Thoreau.

society, "The virtue in most request is conformity." In response, he promoted self-reliance as an antidote to mindless obedience.

This idea is relevant today when so many are content to go along with popular narratives, often disregarding objective evidence and common sense. But those willing to adopt a philosophy of self-reliance will find the complicated world presents a valuable opportunity to cultivate their character in the face of external pressure.

The Pitfalls of Conformity

In our connected digital world, there are powerful influences conspiring

against our mental and moral independence. Loyalty to a particular worldview often takes the place of individuality. So too in Emerson's time was conformity deemed superior to the individual.

A functioning society calls for a degree of cooperation, but there is a point where conformity can take on the characteristics of oppression. The citizens of the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany made compromises for their self-preservation, thinking it better to go with the tide than swim against it.

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CULTURE

The Value of Mentors

The guides who make us better people



More than ever, young people need mentors—people in their lives who will help them become their best.

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“Philosophy changes students’ lives,” Cuddeback says. “They see the implications for their daily lives. Ethics enters into it. They see that truth needs to be lived.”

As an example, Cuddeback mentions Aristotle’s thinking on the degrees of friendship. “It’s always very arresting for students to ask themselves what sort of friendships they have and what they should look for in friends. So when they come to the office we spend a lot of time talking about relationships.”

Music, the culture, the prevalence of technology in their lives: these are just a few of the topics that students bring from the classroom and their reading to their professor.

“I try to be very careful not to have all the answers,” Cuddeback says. “Very often I lend a sympathetic ear and assure them that they’re not the first ones with the problem. You’re asking a great question,” I tell them. “The fact that you’re asking this question means you’re well on the road to answering it. I tell them that we are in this together. You are not alone” is a common theme.”

To continue mentoring students after they’d graduated, Cuddeback estab-

“It’s always very arresting for students to ask themselves what sort of friendships they have.

John Cuddeback, professor, Christendom College

lished Life-Craft.org, where through articles and videos he offers practical advice on crafting a good life based on the philosophers he loves.

Lending a Helping Hand

“If I have seen further,” Isaac Newton once stated, “it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.”

Like Newton, we too stand on the shoulders of guides. Many of them might not think of themselves in that role. My college professor and later good friend, Edward Burrows of Guilford College, probably didn’t consider himself my mentor, nor did I think of him as one, yet looking back he often gave me great advice and always encouraged me to make the most of myself.

And though we may not recognize it, we

may act as guides for others by our words and our deeds. By our behavior and the advice we give to others, we may inspire them to follow a dream or to become a better person. We may not always have the answers, but through our conversation and questions, and by careful listening, we can help them find their way.

The Peterson Phenomenon

Sometimes we even find mentors in people we’ve never met. Jordan Peterson, author of “12 Rules for Life” and “Beyond Order,” became a mentor through his books, videos, and lectures to hundreds of thousands of young people, especially men. He spoke to them of ideas they’d never before heard:

“To stand up straight with your shoulders back is to accept the terrible responsibility of life, with eyes wide open.”

“You’re going to pay a price for every bloody thing you do and for everything you don’t do. You don’t get to choose to not pay a price. You get to choose which poison you’re going to take. That’s it.”

“Compare yourself to who you were yesterday, not to who someone else is today.” Harsh words, yes, but the fact that so many listened to them and took them to heart reveals a burning thirst for mentorship in our culture.

A Great Gift

More than ever, our young people need mentors, someone who can help them become their best selves. They need and want advice and guidance, and when they don’t find it in the people around them, they will take their life lessons from their cellphones and social media.

We don’t need to label ourselves mentors. In fact, that’s probably a ridiculous and self-defeating ambition. What we can do, if the opportunity presents itself, is listen to those who need our help, make the time for them, and when possible, make them aware, as John Cuddeback does, that we’re in this thing together.

“We make a living by what we get,” Winston Churchill stated, “but we make a life by what we give.”

Giving of ourselves: That is the very definition of mentorship.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminary homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. He is the author of two novels, “Amanda Bell” and “Dust on Their Wings,” and two works of non-fiction, “Learning as I Go” and “Movies Make the Man.” Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. See [JeffMinick.com](#) to follow his blog.



Photos of Albert and Myrtle Green from their younger days.



Myrtle and Albert Green on their 75th wedding anniversary.

they have been so wonderful to my parents, and they have been remarkable at remembering them.”

Alecia said she was really grateful to people who took out time from their schedule to surprise her parents despite dealing with some difficult days due to COVID-19.

Having witnessed her parents grow old together, she said their commitment, love, calmness, and respect for each other is what she admires most about them, as they celebrate their milestone wedding anniversary.

She said she has also learned a lot from their marriage, such as working hard toward common goals.

“Treat others the way you want to be treated, and pay it forward. And so that’s what we do because that’s what they exhibited at all times,” Alecia said. “We never even heard our parents have any kind of disagreement at all, ever.”

“We were able to see what we were being taught and hoped for.”

Apart from communication being the foundation of their long-lasting marriage, Myrtle stresses the significance of respect for and understanding each other.

As to how they handle disagreements, Myrtle said: “I listen to him when he has something to say, I give my opinion. And he does the same.” And then they come to an agreement.

Albert, who echoed the same sentiment as his wife, said, “We don’t use profanity either.”

The couple also shared advice for the younger generation about how to maintain a healthy and happy relationship.

“Be honest and be nice,” Myrtle said. “Don’t ever go to bed angry. Even though you might be angry, say goodnight.”

MARRIAGE

Detroit Couple Share Their Secret to 75 Years of Wedded Bliss

DAKSHA DEVNANI

A nonagenarian Detroit couple who met when they were just 13 shared their secret to a long-lasting marriage as they celebrate 75 years of wedded bliss.

“I need to say that my husband and I, we don’t argue,” said Myrtle Green, 94. “We communicate with each other.”

Albert, 94, who was born in South Carolina, met Myrtle in Detroit when his brother got married to one of her neighbors.

Although only teens back then, for Albert, it was love at first sight. He said: “The first time I saw her I said I’m going to marry her.”

And Myrtle found Albert “nice,” though they didn’t begin dating right then. Their relationship blossomed in high school, and they realized that they both had a lot

in common as they enjoyed going out for dances and movies together.

In 1946, aged 19, the couple tied the knot in a parsonage.

“We’ve been together for 75 years,” Myrtle said. “We have never, never been separate, not by one day.”

Over the years, the couple went on to have four children and were proud owners of Green’s Variety Store on the southwest side of Detroit for 55 years before they retired in 2015. According to Click on Detroit, their store was the last one standing in the Detroit-based Delray community at that time.

Apart from working together, the Greens enjoy watching movies, sports channels, and talking with each other.

“They talk now more than ever, and they have a lot to talk about as they don’t have

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When they fully realized the dangers of their passive approach, it was too late to change course.

Conformity can only become tyranny when too few adopt an attitude of self-reliance. Those who are willing to engage in self-reflection and speak their minds have tremendous power to set things right. In addition to fulfilling a duty to society, the self-reliant individual embarks on a path of self-actualization inaccessible to the common man.

When we stand our ground in the face of adversity, we cultivate an inner integrity that will aid us when times get dark.

As Emerson puts it: “Whoso would be a man must be a nonconformist. He who would gather immortal palms must not be hindered by the name of goodness, but must explore if it be goodness. Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind.”

Bombarded as we are by biased facts and opinions, viewing the world through an independent lens is no easy feat.

The Advantage of Self-Reliance

When we choose to express ourselves freely and honestly, trials and tribula-



Speaking your mind has tremendous power, even if it may draw ire and contempt.

tions will inevitably arise. As Emerson states, “For nonconformity the world whips you with its displeasure.” As such, independent thinkers must necessarily endure the contempt of their fellow man.

At times we will be tempted to throw

in the towel and concede defeat. But Emerson implores us to “abide by our spontaneous impression with good-humored inflexibility then most when the whole cry of voices is on the other side.”

To trust oneself in spite of mounting pressure from those who forgo critical

FAMILY

The Unexpected Joys of Aunting

MARY KATE SKEHAN

On almost every Friday night of the past year, I’ve reported to my brother and sister-in-law’s house at 5 p.m. with a bottle of wine. They, in turn, have three kids, two pizzas, and a salad. We call this ritual—simply, magnificently—Pizza Friday.

I won’t go so far as to say Pizza Friday saved me during the pandemic, but it made my life a lot better. In the extreme lull of life under COVID, without extracurricular activities or a social life, my brothers’ families were my main hangs, whether the order of the day was pizza, whiffle ball, or “Frozen II” dress-up. Pre-pandemic, I always had photos of my eight nieces and nephews in my apartment and office, but during the pandemic, I got the full, 3D experience of aunting: sticky hands, baby sharks, and all.

While I have plenty to offer my nieces and nephews—stories, candy, Go Fish—they fill important needs for me, too: silliness, joy, a child’s easy affection.

If you were to judge from many popular portrayals, from Roald Dahl to The Simpsons, aunts are vicious, neglectful, and embittered. Non-relations are the heroes of many fairy tales, choosing a child on whom to bestow nurturing and guidance, regardless of blood ties: think fairy godmothers, Hagrid, or the troupe of anthropomorphic insects who navigate James’s Giant Peach across the ocean. In Jane Austen, aunts are fiercely respectable, even imperious. In Marilynne Robinson’s “Housekeeping,” aunts are ineffectual old biddies.

I have seven siblings, and my father has



Kids often relish stories told by their aunts (and uncles) about their parents. The shared history reinforces family bonds.

six, so the kids in our family are awash in near relations. In my family, uncles are teasers and practical jokers, pitchers of whiffle balls and sneakers of treats, while aunts are board-game-players, story-readers, and purveyors of nutritious lunches. But we are all keepers of family lore, capitalizing on every child’s fascination with the childhoods of their parents. Your dad learned to ride a bike in this alley; We made these cookies with Nana every Christmas; Did I tell you about the time Uncle Frank tried to run away from home? This is what separates us from the fairy godmothers and BFGs of storytime: shared history; bonds older than we are.

It’s probably important to note that I’m unmarried and childless. While I have plenty to offer my nieces and nephews—stories, candy, Go Fish—they fill important needs for me, too: silliness, joy, a child’s easy affection. They challenge me to be patient because of their demands to dress and eat and wash “by myself,” with superhuman inefficiency. They require me to set a good example because their ears are hyper-alert for

swears. They confront my embarrassment in the face of dependence because everyone wears diapers at some point. By their very existence, they prompt me to be forward-looking and self-forgetting. They get the first plate, take the first turn, and are the most beautiful people in any room.

The personal enrichment I receive from my nieces and nephews feels to me so significant, in fact, that when I see downward-trending line graphs and worrying scatter charts on fertility on this blog and in other outlets, it occurs to me to wonder not just about would-be parents, but would-be aunts and uncles, too. A birth-rate of 1.6 children in this generation means that in the next, aunts and uncles will be as rare and precious as siblings are now. Aunts like mine, and like me, could become an endangered species.

Is this the most urgent issue facing families in our society? Of course not. In the absence of near family, parents will conscript friends and neighbors—“chosen family”—to be babysitters and chaperones, extra sets of eyes, and pairs of hands at birthdays and Communion.

thought takes grit and independence, hard-won by weathering the jeers of the crowd. When we stand our ground in the face of adversity, we cultivate an inner integrity that will aid us when times get dark.

This doesn’t mean we must take to the streets and impose our views on the world; rather we should consult with our conscience and express our heart-felt impressions without fear, anger, or judgment, and allow others to do the same. We shouldn’t expect others to conform to us, but rather seek to rouse the hidden genius in our fellow man.

When the whole of society is gripped by an unhealthy conformity, it’s the duty of those who would help the world regain its composure to speak their convictions and engage fully in the battle of ideas. If we steadfastly hold to our better instincts, we can become Emerson’s “guides, redeemers, and benefactors, obeying the Almighty effort, and advancing on Chaos and the Dark.”

Great men have always chosen their own paths and dared to go against the orthodoxy of their day. The hero’s journey calls for such sacrifice. The greatest men do so with humility and absolute trust in the transcendent.

As Emerson so eloquently stated: “We but half express ourselves, and are ashamed of that divine idea which each of us represents. It may be safely trusted as proportionate and of good issues, so it be faithfully imparted, but God will not have his work made manifest by cowards.”

Ryan Moffatt is a tradesman, father, writer, and musician.

Though I can’t personally imagine a childhood without a dozen aunts and uncles crowding Thanksgiving, I don’t think their presence is strictly necessary to a happy childhood.

But what about the would-be aunts themselves? We know statistically that more women will remain unmarried and childless—happily or unhappily—than at any time before, and that women who do have children are more likely to have only one. Aunts and uncles will go extinct before parents will, the canary in the coalmine of loneliness and isolation. Women will be less likely to have children or siblings with children—meaning they’re less likely to have children in their family at all.

In a way, this is just another social bond disintegrating in 21st-century America, along with Rotary Clubs and churches and bowling leagues. My generation is widely reported to have fewer close ties and dimmer expectations of the future, and there are many well-covered causes and symptoms of this loneliness. But surely non-nuclear family ties rate a mention, though they appear not to have been specifically studied by researchers measuring marriage rates, birth rates, and social isolation. Aunts, uncles, and cousins are the original social network, and I wonder if their loss is simply incalculable.

Sharing in joy means sharing in sorrow, too. My brother and sister-in-law recently lost a child before birth, their fourth, a daughter named Gianna Therese. I brought over a casserole—a gesture as hopeful and inadequate as a child’s clumsily crafted potholders, bracelets, and birthday cards. My niece poked at the container. “Pizza?” she asked expectantly. Not today. But Pizza Friday will be back someday soon, in all of its precious, routine, and casual glory.

This article was originally published on the [Institute for Family Studies](#) blog.

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A wood engraving of Astoria, Ore., from 1868. The town was named after John Jacob Astor.

HISTORY

A Pacific Empire in the Making

Book review: 'Astoria' by Peter Stark

ANITA L. SHERMAN

Most of us remember history lessons about the overland expedition of Lewis and Clark in 1804-1806 to push beyond the Louisiana Purchase, discover a river route through the new lands, and reach the Pacific Coast.

President Thomas Jefferson, a scholar and visionary, had read British writer Alexander Mackenzie's urgings from 1801 to his fellow countrymen about how critical it was to control the mouth of the Columbia (on today's Washington-Oregon border) and the Pacific Coast.

At that point in history, the vast territory extending west from Missouri to the Pacific Coast was unclaimed. Jefferson wanted to expand the boundaries of the United States, from sea to shining sea, and get there first.

Meriwether Lewis didn't disagree.

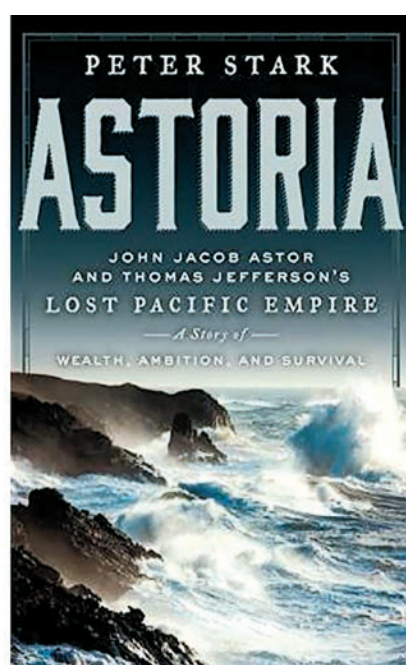
"On his triumphant return to Washington, D.C., Meriwether Lewis strongly urged President Jefferson, as Mackenzie had urged the British, to create a seaport on the Pacific Rim as an outlet to China for furs from the western sector of North America, despite the lack of an easy route through the Rockies. But President Jefferson felt that the U.S. government by itself had neither the will nor the funds to extend itself far west enough to settle the far edges of the continent. However, much as he wished to see it, he thought a Pacific Rim seaport was best left to private enterprise," wrote journalist Peter Stark, in "Astoria: John Jacob Astor and Thomas Jefferson's Lost Pacific Empire: A Story of Wealth, Ambition, and Survival."

Enter businessman and entrepreneur John Jacob Astor, who had made his way to New York at an early age from Europe and quickly displayed his talent for meticulous planning, bold risk-taking, and dreaming on a large scale, particularly when it came to furs (a sought-after commodity on America's East Coast and in Europe, China, and Russia).

The combination of Astor's entrepreneurial business acumen and Jefferson's expansionist vision proved fateful.

"It's clear that Astor and Jefferson fueled each other with their mutual enthusiasm and vision of the West Coast's limitless possibilities," Stark writes. "Jefferson was a philosophical idealist (but practical statesman) possessed of a continent-wide vision and deeply committed to the concept of nations living free from royal rule. Astor was an extremely focused and yet far-seeing businessman whose deepest loyalties, besides to his family and closest acquaintances, were to his business empire: extending it as far as possible, preferably in the form of a monopoly, while maximizing his bottom line. For these two energized individuals meeting, the Pacific Coast hovered over the western horizon like a giant blank slate—a tabula rasa for statecraft on a hemispherical scale and trade on a global one."

Stark, who has a penchant for adventure stories, doesn't disappoint, describing in



"Astoria: John Jacob Astor and Thomas Jefferson's Lost Pacific Empire: A Story of Wealth, Ambition, and Survival" by Peter Stark.

graphic detail what transpires next in this look back at a tale of high ambition set against the backdrop of the American frontier, starting in 1810.

It's a harrowing story as readers follow the fates of those who bought onto Astor's two-pronged plan of reaching the Pacific Coast and establishing his "emporium."

This largely forgotten chapter in history is vividly recreated as we follow two groups on their respective heroic quests. One is led by William Price Hunt, a young businessman from Trenton, New Jersey, going overland and across the Rockies to the Columbia River. The other is led by an American patriot and U.S. naval hero Captain Jonathan Thorn, who sails around Cape Horn. Their mission is to join forces on the Columbia River and create America's first colony on the Pacific Northwest coast. Think of Jamestown in Virginia.

What happens to them is a gut-wrenching page-turner pitting strong wills destined to survive and succeed against the unforgiving elements of the natural world.

At one point, the overland travelers find themselves in what is today's Hells Canyon on the Snake River, literally stuck between a rock and a hard place. Without their canoes or horses and blanketed by a fierce winter storm, the intrepid group faces starvation.

After traveling more than 9,000 miles by sea from New York's harbor to rounding Cape Horn, the weary crew of the Tonquin is restless in body and spirit. They still have another 7,200 miles to reach Hawaii, let alone the Pacific Northwest coast.

Stark creatively weaves into this book of high adventure many teachable moments. While Astor remains comfortably in New York masterminding (as word is able to reach him) his grand global scheme, his chosen champions in the field are confronted with enduring the often harsh consequences of challenging decisions made under duress.

Stark examines their differing leadership styles in the face of crisis. Who proves more effective? The unmoving, seemingly insensitive, authoritarian sea captain or the nonconfrontational, consensus-building novice in the wilderness?

This largely forgotten chapter in history is vividly recreated as we follow two groups on their respective heroic quests.



John Jacob Astor (1763-1848), a German-American businessman, was the first multimillionaire in the United States.



President Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) had an expansive, continent-wide vision for America but felt that establishing a Pacific seaport should be left to private initiative at that time.

'Astoria: John Jacob Astor and Thomas Jefferson's Lost Pacific Empire: A Story of Wealth, Ambition, and Survival'

Author
Peter Stark
Publisher
Ecco, 2014
Pages
400

Adding to the contention, Stark's engaging and powerful personalities come from a variety of cultural backgrounds, including Scottish fur traders, French-Canadian voyageurs, American and British sailors and adventurers, and men and women from Native American Indian tribes.

While not a major protagonist in the story, the one woman traveling with the overland group, Marie Dorion, a member of the Iowa tribe, is notable. She emerges as a heroine in her own right, married to a part French-Sioux interpreter husband; she's pregnant and has two toddlers, 5-year-old Jean Baptiste and 2-year-old Paul, whom she carries on her shoulders. Their fragile, isolated portrait is framed against a vast wilderness landscape.

There are many moments of connectiveness that speak to the human spirit as readers find themselves drawn into the suffering of men lost at sea, men left behind, men gone mad, and men starving but often offered help from surprising sources.

The War of 1812 between the United States and Britain came at a critical point in Astor's business plan. Astoria as an established city does become a reality, but hardly the thriving enterprise that Astor envisioned.

The Pacific Coast does become part of the United States, but not until decades later, in 1846, not during Jefferson's administration.

But the groundwork was laid, as history tells us. The Astorians, isolated and exposed to nature's harshness, took great risks. Their rewards were reaped by generations to come.

"In 1843, the first large group of wagons, known as the 'Great Migration,' made for the Willamette from Independence, Missouri, along the route pioneered by the Astorians," Stark wrote.

This was the Oregon Trail. And America's boundaries do stretch from sea to shining sea.

Stark moves skillfully between the story's segments to give readers a thoroughly researched and rich accounting of this great American saga, one that we should all know about and cherish as part of who we are today.

History buffs, biographers, adventure aficionados, Northwest fans, and more will enjoy this well-written and fast-paced read of a history that reshaped America's landscape.

On a personal note, Portland, Oregon, is my hometown, just shy of 100 miles from Astoria on the Pacific Northwest coast. While I've visited this charming, coastal community, I was unfamiliar with this chapter in Oregon's and America's history. I am grateful for coming across Peter Stark's engaging and compelling narrative.

Anita L. Sherman is an award-winning journalist who has more than 20 years of experience as a writer and editor for local papers and regional publications in Virginia. She now works as a freelance writer and is working on her first novel. She's the mother of three grown children and grandmother of four, and she resides in Warrenton, Va. Anita can be reached at anitajustwrite@gmail.com

HISTORY

Answering Freedom's Call: Joseph and Esther Reed

LAWRENCE W. REED

Anyone who has ever dabbled in genealogy knows that as you go back into family history, the answers to one question always lead to several more—more questions, that is. Genealogy may be the only area of study in which (excuse the joke) "Everything is relative." Frustrating, too.

Using a popular online ancestry service, I submitted to a DNA test and learned that I am 49 percent Scottish, 28 percent "Germanic Europe," 8 percent Irish, 8 percent English, and 7 percent Norwegian. No big surprises there, based on what I heard from family and relatives over the years. The frustrating part is that I've hit a brick wall in the early 1800s. So far, I can't identify anybody on the Reed family tree further back than that.

Two people I really want to be related to are Joseph and Esther Reed. They lived and died in the 18th century, resided in my native state of Pennsylvania, and were notable for their contributions to the cause of liberty in the American Revolution. Whether or not I discover a blood connection to them, I'm proud to at least share similar world views and the same last name.

Joseph was 33 when war broke out between Great Britain and the colonies in 1775. At the personal request of Gen. George Washington, he departed his successful law practice in Philadelphia to become a colonel in the Continental Army and an aide-de-camp to Washington himself. Barely two years later, he declined two prestigious job offers to stay at Washington's side: brigadier general in the Army and chief justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

The following year, 1778, proved extraordinary in Joseph Reed's life. He was elected both to Congress and to the high post of president of Pennsylvania (the latter making him, in effect, the first governor of the state). He was one of five delegates from the state to sign the Articles of Confederation in 1778. His tenure as the highest elected official in Pennsylvania saw American troops stave off complete disaster at Valley Forge, the abolition of slavery in the state, and the ultimate American victory at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781 (in which he played a key role).

Highly regarded for his personal character, Joseph was once offered a huge bribe to get the colonies to reconcile with the mother country. He reportedly responded, "I am not worth purchasing; but such as I am, the King of Great Britain is not rich enough to do it."

Under the pressures of war-time expenditures, Pennsylvania went bankrupt during Reed's governorship in 1780. To his credit, he supported financier Robert Morris's proposals of free markets and sound money to resolve the fiscal dilemma.

A Revolutionary Mother

Joseph Reed's British-born wife Esther, whom he married in 1770, was every bit



Portrait of Esther Reed by Charles Willson Peale.

as fascinating as he was. Before her death only a decade later, the Reeds would bring six children into the world. Esther's London upbringing didn't prevent her from blossoming into one of the most revered female patriots of the American cause. Carol Berkin, in her fascinating book "Revolutionary Mothers," identifies her as one of the most notable women "who were eager to declare their loyalties" regardless of the risks. Berkin writes:

"That October [1775], several months before Tom Paine's Common Sense broke the last bonds of loyalty to the king for many Americans, Reed wrote proudly to her brother in England that her cause, and her husband's cause, was 'liberty and virtue, how much soever it may be branded by the names of rebellion and treason.' Beneath her strong and determined tone, however, lay a fear of what the future held in store. 'We have a powerful enemy to contend with,' she conceded, adding, 'Everything that is dear to us is at stake.' In the coming months, Reed would discover how right she was."

For the Reeds, the war meant long periods of separation. Esther and their growing brood of children fled the family home several times when the British threatened Philadelphia. The hardship she endured, however, paled in comparison to that of the soldiers in the Continental Army. She was well aware of that fact. She resolved in 1780 to do something about it.

Esther teamed up with Benjamin Franklin's daughter, Sarah Bache, and formed the Ladies Association of Philadelphia to support the troops. It proved to be the largest private fundraising campaign of the war.

The kick-off for the effort was the publication in January 1780 of a broadside written substantially by Esther herself.



An engraving of Joseph Reed by Pierre Eugène du Simitière.

Titled "Sentiments of a British-American Woman," it appealed to the patriotic instincts of all women who loved liberty. Writes Berkin:

"She cited a long list of historical heroines who were 'Born for Liberty'—naming biblical figures such as Deborah and Queen Esther and, later, saints such as Joan of Arc, but also including all the anonymous women who in wartime had ignored 'the weakness of their sex' and built fortifications, dug trenches with their bare hands, and sacrificed their jewels, fine clothing, and money to save their country."

Esther's London upbringing didn't prevent her from blossoming into one of the most revered female patriots of the American cause.

Esther and Sarah called for every female in Pennsylvania to come forth with "offerings" of money to help the war effort. Nothing, they declared, would be too small and everything would be put to good use. They would get the money to the troops through Gen. Washington's wife, Martha.

Letters between Esther Reed and Gen. Washington indicate that Esther initially wanted to give the money directly to the soldiers in the sum of two dollars each. But Washington, concerned that the men might spend it on liquor, urged her to use it instead to buy linen and cloth, and then enlist volunteers to sew it into clothes.

In short order, the Ladies Association

PARENTING

After-School Routine: Keys to a Happy Transition Each Day

BARBARA DANZA

Something that surprised me when my children started attending school was how challenging the hour or two after school could be some days.

After six hours in school (six hours and 25 minutes, actually, but who's counting?) my usually happy little ones would exhibit crankiness, sadness, and fatigue. They generally struggled to transition into their afternoon of homework or after-school activities.

It soon became clear to me that insisting on homework five minutes after they walked in the door wasn't ideal, nor was relentlessly asking them how their day had gone. Rather, allowing for a gentle welcome back to their warm home and providing some freedom and peace to unwind in made for happier kids and better afternoons.

Here are some ideas to consider when your children come home from school.

A Soft Place to Fall

I remember back in the day, psychologist and talk show host Dr. Phil appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" to discuss relationships. He talked about partners ideally maintaining "a soft place to fall" for one another.

I've always liked that vision of providing "a soft place to fall" for our loved ones. This is what I think our kids need when they come home from school.

They've been cooped up inside, sitting for long hours, directed by adults all day, tied to a strict and often rushed schedule, and soaked in an environment that likely requires patience and tolerance to navigate through at times.

As parents, rather than continuing the trend of rushing through the day and ticking items off a to-do list, perhaps we can keep softness in mind and cushion their transition home by simply slowing down and being gentle, kind, and compassionate.

Warmth of Home

The state of our homes can affect our internal well-being. A study at the Princeton University Neuroscience Institute found that clutter restricts one's ability to focus and limits one's ability to process information.

You likely don't need research to tell you that operating in a clear and clean space



Rather than rushing kids into completing homework when they get home, offer them healthy snacks and some water and allow them to decompress from their day at school.

is less stressful than one that is messy and chaotic.

Welcoming our children into a clutter-free home, then, can be beneficial. I've found that playing calm music, lighting candles, and keeping the artificial light sparse also adds to a calm and peaceful environment at home.

Pause the Interrogation

It took me a little too long to get the hint that my after-school questions ("How was your day? What did you do at recess? Did you enjoy your lunch? How was art class? How are your friends doing?") were exhausting to my children rather than encouraging or helpful as I assumed.

The Reeds were notable for their contributions to the cause of liberty in the American Revolution

raised more than \$300,000 (more than \$6 million in 2021 dollars) from more than 1,600 Pennsylvanians, an astonishing sum. So that each man would know of the "offering of the Ladies," Reed had each volunteer embroider her own name into the shirts and pants she sewed.

The Ladies Association engendered huge enthusiasm among Philadelphia women, who not only sewed the clothing but also knocked on doors to raise the money. The effort was an inspiration across the colonies, leading to the formation of similar groups from New England to the South.

A Day to Celebrate?

Sadly, Esther didn't live to see America achieve the independence for which she had worked so hard, but she lived long enough that she may well have surmised on her deathbed that it was imminent. She died of dysentery in September 1780, at the age of 34. She was eulogized as a hero for the cause of American liberty.

Joseph outlived Esther, but not by much. When his term as president of Pennsylvania ended in November 1781, he returned to his legal practice. And though he once again was elected to Congress in 1784, he declined because of poor health. He died in March 1785 at the age of 43.

It will be a day I'll celebrate for the rest of my life if I discover that, in fact, I am related to these two fine Americans, Joseph and Esther Reed.

For Additional Information, See:

"Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for American Independence" by Carol Berkin

"A Little-Known Founding Mother, Esther De Berdt Reed" by Tara Ross

"Esther De Berdt Reed" by American Battlefield Trust

"Sentiments of a British-American Woman: Esther De Berdt Reed and the American Revolution" by Owen S. Ireland

"The Life of Esther De Berdt Reed of Pennsylvania" by William B. Reed

"Joseph Reed; a Historical Essay" by George Bancroft

"Correspondence Between Esther De Berdt Reed and George Washington" National Archives' Founders Online (bit.ly/3C26iGa)

"Joseph Reed, George Washington's First Military Secretary," John Fabiano, May 22, 2021 (bit.ly/3psMjmtU)

Lawrence W. Reed is FEE's president emeritus, Humphreys Family senior fellow, and Ron Manners global ambassador for Liberty, having served for nearly 11 years as FEE's president (2008-2019). He is the author of the 2020 book "Was Jesus a Socialist?" as well as "Real Heroes: Incredible True Stories of Courage, Character, and Conviction" and "Excuse Me, Professor: Challenging the Myths of Progressivism." His website is LawrenceWReed.com

Replace the well-intentioned interrogation with hugs and smiles, soft speech, and calm actions. Let them come home and just be. As the day goes on, they'll share and communicate with you when they are ready.

Allow Time to Decompress

I also used to think that it was important to get homework out of the way as quickly as possible. Let's just get it over with so we can enjoy the rest of our day, right?

While waiting too long to begin homework can lead to frustrating evenings for sure, buffering the time between arriving home and beginning homework with relaxation can be oh so helpful for your children.

Offering a healthy snack and water and allowing your children to enter their home and decompress after their school day can make all the difference.

Don't Overschedule

After-school activities can provide amazing opportunities for children to explore their interests and learn new things. It doesn't take long, however, before the time these activities eat up does more harm than good.

Be extremely selective when it comes to committing your children's time. Don't lose sight of the fact that those activities will replace time for free play which is vital to their growth and, quite possibly, more valuable than the activities you've signed them up for.

DEAR NEXT GENERATION

These Courtesies Used to Be Common

→ Advice from our readers to our young people

There are some courtesies that used to be considered common, but essential, for children. They seem to be fading away with civility for children and adults alike, and I miss them. I am listing a few of them below.

1. If you say you'll be there, be there, even if a better offer comes along.
2. If you say you'll do it, do it, in a timely manner. Whatever you do, give it your best. People are counting on you.
3. Be honest, not sneaky or deceiving or conniving. Silence is not honesty.
4. Spend time with people you love. Without plans to leave too quickly. Without electronics. Be fully engaged with the people you're with.
5. If you can't afford it, don't buy it, leaving others feeling obligated to bail you out. Separate the needs from the wants.
6. There is an old saying, "Your lack of planning does not necessitate a crisis on my part." Don't expect others to jump when you don't plan or prepare.
7. Remember important days and milestones. Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, holidays, weddings, funerals. It lets people know you care.
8. Make time for what's important. Worship, fun, people, learning.



Remembering important days for people, such as birthdays or anniversaries, lets them know you care.

“If you say you'll be there, be there, even if a better offer comes along.”

Linda Gangolf

fingers remind me to spend time with my Dad and spend time with my Mom. This is so important during these technological times where smartphones and video games can consume all your time. What's worse, they contribute to taking your parents for granted. As a 66-year-old man, I still enjoy them and learn so much from them. Why? Because I spend time with them. It wasn't always that way growing up at home with them. There's always something that gets in the way of spending time with them. I feel truly blessed that I have been given the opportunity to still have them around, especially when I can appreciate them as a husband, father, and grandfather. This has encouraged me to spend more time with my family now that I can treasure my time with my Mom and Dad. Even now, I get reminded when I use my hands to do things around the house or anything else where I am using my fingers—like writing this letter. So, my advice is this: When you are texting, playing video games, or using your fingers to navigate through social media, remember not to forget to put your hands in front of you.

—Victor D. Silva, California

What advice would you like to give to the younger generations?

We call on all of our readers to share the timeless values that define right and wrong, and pass the torch, if you will, through your wisdom and hard-earned experience. We feel that the passing down of this wisdom has diminished over time, and that only with a strong moral foundation can future generations thrive.

Send your advice, along with your full name, state, and contact information to NextGeneration@epochtimes.com or mail it to:

Next Generation, The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001

9. Take the message system off your phone if you don't plan to return calls.
10. Be kind, listen to others' viewpoints, say "please," "thank you," and "I'm sorry."

—Sincerely
Linda Gangolf

When I graduated from Windsor High School in Missouri in 1959, my proud mother said, "The world is your oyster. You can do anything you want to if you always do the best you can with what you've got right now." The words "right now" really meant every day for the rest of my life. She intended for me to stay focused.

—LTC (Ret) Dewey A. Browder,
Ph.D., Tennessee

When I put my hands in front of me, my 10

EDUCATION

What Should Children Learn?

Back to the basics

BARBARA DANZA

If you've ever taken a look at the typical course of study today's school students are required to complete, you might assume that the collection of subjects, the order in which they're taught, and the resources used to teach them are the result of great study and research by the best educational experts in the land. You might also presume the goal of the current educational strategy is to provide students with the tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to reach their greatest potential.

Is that the case, though? Today, students throughout their academic careers take courses such as "English," "Social Studies," "Earth Science," and "Pre-Algebra." Increasingly, the study of the great works of literature, music, art, and even grammar are being deemphasized. Kids are being handed a high school diploma, in too many cases, without a fundamental grasp of history, basic communication, or any clue about what humanity's greatest cultures, thinkers, and artists ever offered the world. Further, they are imbued with a character ethic that, unless overridden by their family's influence, might hinder their ability to thrive long-term. So, what should children learn?

Communication

First and foremost, a child should be taught to read competently, speak clearly, and write skillfully. In the elementary years, this can be achieved by offering them a feast of good books while exploring, as they get older, the ins and outs of phonics and grammar. They should be encouraged to write frequently—in a journal, in letters to family, in stories they invent, with chalk on the sidewalk.

Proper handwriting, both in print and in cursive, should also be taught. Putting pen



The study of art is invaluable, although they are often first on the chopping block when curriculum changes occur.

to paper evokes a different depth of thinking than typing or texting does. Further, many historic documents were written in cursive. We shouldn't lose our ability to read them.

As kids advance academically, they can tackle more advanced writing projects, learn to verbally present ideas, and understand increasingly challenging texts. Individuals with solid communication skills have everything they need to learn anything they'd like.

The way history is typically approached in school is both boring and disjointed.

Logic

One of the greatest benefits of studying math—besides the practical application it offers for a future engineering career or household budget—is that it teaches you to think logically. Those students that can excel in mathematics should be encouraged to do so. The trend of removing advanced placement programs in some schools will greatly stifle such students.

Beyond math, of course, is the formal study of logic. If you're unfamiliar with the study of logic, it's worth noting that a typical school curriculum is almost completely devoid of this very important piece of education. Logic is the study of reason and teaches one to consider arguments and ideas rationally. A logic student learns to identify any existing fallacies or false premises.

If we've learned anything these past few years, it's that the ability to think logically and critically is essential. There are a number of formal logic programs on the market today targeted to homeschoolers, but appropriate for anyone wishing to fill this void.

History

The way history is typically approached in school is both boring and disjointed. Fundamentally, history is a story. It begins as far back as we've been able to see and continues on up to today. It's exciting and entertaining—full of human feats, creations, discoveries, and lessons. Teaching history should be simple and fun. The best way is to teach it in order, like you would any story, starting at the beginning.

If you want to know how most schools' strategy for teaching history has fared, talk to a few teenagers about, say, what the Dec-

laration of Independence says, who fought in either World War, or what the impact communism has had on the world. The consequences of a society ignorant of history aren't small.

The Arts

That the arts tend to be the first subjects on the chopping block when school curriculum changes are mandated is heartbreaking. Throughout the world, different cultures have contributed extraordinary artistic accomplishments—gifts mankind should treasure. Whether in the field of painting, sculpture, architecture, music, theater, dance, literature, poetry, or any other form of artistic expression—the beauty, goodness, and inherent lessons imbued in the study of the arts is immeasurable. Children should be surrounded by the very best of humanity's creations. With today's technology, it's easily at our fingertips.

Talent Development

Every student is blessed with his or her own individual strengths and talents. The school paradigm leaves little room for the recognition or development of any ability on an individual basis. If students are to reach their greatest potential, however, it's precisely these blessings they should be given the space and resources to develop. Whether he or she is a budding writer, scientist, artist, lawyer, teacher, CEO, craftsman, or plumber, individual strengths should be maximized and allowed to flourish.

Moral Character

The most crucial and fundamental aspect of a good education is the instilling of good moral values. Students must be able to discern right from wrong. They should uphold the truth, discern the truth, and be truthful as they go about their lives. They should work diligently, take responsibility, and be willing to sacrifice for what is right. They should care for their families, friends, neighbors, and communities. They should have compassion for others. They should respect their elders. They should aspire to be as good as they can possibly be.

A child should learn to be an educated person of high moral character. How blessed society would be with such students.

LARGER THAN LIFE: ART THAT INSPIRES US THROUGH THE AGES

Whitehall: Where Muses of Literature and the Arts Reside

JAMES HOWARD SMITH

In 1883, Henry Morrison Flagler was charmed with his visit to Florida, and he imagined others would also find delight there. With that thought, five years later, he began construction of the first of many hotels in the state. To provide a path for others to enjoy the gifts of Florida, Flagler also established the Florida East Coast Railway leading deep into the state. After a significant over-sea engineering feat, eventually the railway reached all the way to Key West.

Due to his dedicated efforts, Flagler had a significant and lasting effect on establishing Florida as a holiday destination. Twenty years after that fortuitous first visit, he built his winter residence, Whitehall. His new home almost came as a reward, a place to enjoy the Florida he had helped create.

Whitehall was designed during the Gilded Age, a time of expansive technological development and cultural enrichment across America. It was influenced by the origins of Western civilization, that of Classical Greece and the Roman Empire. Whitehall was designed in Beaux-Arts style, which draws upon these periods. The partnership of architects John Carrère and Thomas Hastings helped to advance the cultural heritage of the time. Whitehall was completed in 1902, the same year their design of the New York Public Library began construction.

Upon arriving in Whitehall, guests gaze in awe as they enter the Grand Hall. Looking upward into the lofty painted clouds, the Oracle of Delphi appears surrounded by the Muses of literature and the arts. The Muses aim to share the wisdom of Apollo, the Sun God, and by doing so, inspire and illuminate humanity. This grand arrival sets the tone for the rooms of Whitehall and



Whitehall's main façade, facing the rising sun, is defined by six massive Doric columns that were typical of temples of Apollo. The design emulated a temple where the Muses of arts and literature reside.

their various uses and decorative details.

Knowledge of Western history, literature, and art—playing the role of imparting wisdom and broadening minds—was thought to be essential by those entrepreneurs who considered themselves leaders. They felt a responsibility to translate this gained wisdom into action, and thus Flagler and his

contemporaries bore great influence on the men, women, and families of America.

Whitehall, then, provided an apt environment for this philosophy, with the Muses for inspiration, and rooms such as the Library, the Drawing Room, and the Dining Room offering spaces to learn, share insights, and strategize various projects.

To find out more about Whitehall, which is now the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum, visit FlaglerMuseum.us

James Howard Smith, an architectural photographer, designer, and founder of *Cartio*, aims to inspire an appreciation of classic architecture.



1. The Grand Hall: The New York firm of Pottier & Stymus designed the interiors of Whitehall. The bold marble columns and ornate plaster moldings on the ceiling, highlighted with gold leaf, define the Grand Hall and welcome guests upon arrival.
2. The Drawing Room is decorated in the Louis XVI style. The light tones and refined finishes create a harmonious atmosphere that was suitable for Henry Flagler's wife, Mary Lily, who would gather guests here for music and conversation. The painting on the piano lid is of Erato, the Muse of love poetry.
3. The two large marble urns greet guests and lead them to the massive bronze doors, which are imprinted with two lion heads. Lions are ancient symbols of the sun, representing Apollo, the sun god.
4. The Kenan Pavilion holds Henry Flagler's private Railcar No. 91. The railcar was built in 1886 for Flagler's personal use. Flagler traveled by this railcar at the completion of the Florida East Coast Railway from St. Augustine to Key West.
5. The Flaglers would host large dinner parties that would often include prominent men from financial, literary, and legal circles. The Dining Room was designed in the French Renaissance style. The ceiling is cast plaster painted to look like wood. The fireplace mantle incorporates elaborately carved culinary touches such as shells, crabs, and fruit.
6. Designed in the style of the Italian Renaissance, the Library was a place for cultural enrichment. Portraits of great Americans such as George Washington line the walls to offer inspiration and to remind guests of the wisdom and virtues employed while forging America. Flagler received guests and business associates here.
7. Located in Palm Beach, Fla., and sitting amid a coconut palm grove, Whitehall's rear façade fronts onto Lake Worth, seen here at sunset.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Teen Starts Hot Dog Business to Raise Money for Dental School

‘I would inspire other people to do the same thing because any 16 year old can start a business.’

LOUISE BEVAN

A teen with a dream of becoming a dentist got ahead of the game at just 16. Forming his very own LLC with his parents’ help, he became the proud proprietor of a popular hot dog stand and is now raising money for dentistry school.

Ryan Fouts of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, has been running Ryan’s Dawgs for two years. He told The Epoch Times that the venture has taught him his biggest lesson in life so far.

“I don’t want life to pass me by,” said Ryan, now 18. “The more experience you get at a young age, it’s tremendous for you later in life. I see it every single day with business experiences. Starting a business at such a young age was the best thing that’s happened to me this far in life, just because I’ve gained so much experience.”

Ryan said that people often think that a minimum-wage job is all there is for youngsters. But he believes that “there’s so much more to the world.”

Crediting his success to the support from his parents, friends, and locals, the young entrepreneur has channeled his profits back into his business. He strives to keep food and drinks prices low in order to serve everyone, including kids and low-income families.

For Ryan, the hot dog stand has become more about making connections than making money, and he said his customers are “pretty much always” nice and polite.

“I like people, I like socializing,” he said. “[People] tell me they’re inspired by what I do, and that means a lot to me. I would inspire other people to do the same thing because any 16-year-old can start a business.”

Ryan hit the ground running with support from fellow Bartlesville High School students at his first big event.

“It was insane,” he said. “It was absolutely amazing to see the response from people, to see someone putting in that much hard



1 Ryan with the officers from the Bartlesville Police Department at the Back the Blue rally in September 2021.

2 Ryan’s signature hot dog is topped with cream cheese, bacon, local pepper jam, and fried jalapeños.

3 Ryan credits his success to the immense support of his community.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF RYAN FOUTS

work and effort. It totally lit that flame of entrepreneurship for me.”

Serving 100 percent all-beef hot dogs, hot links, and bratwurst using his own recipes, plus combinations suggested by other food vendors, Ryan soon found his people-pleasing formula. His signature “Shorties Dawg”—packed with cream cheese, bacon, local pepper jam, and fried jalapeños—is his current bestseller.

Ryan’s Dawgs is on the upswing, and the teen is busy scouting colleges; he wants to study pediatric dentistry, majoring in business so that he can run his own clinic one day. He even plans to bring his hot dog stand to campus to raise money for tuition fees in his free time.

The idea for the stand came after Ryan applied for jobs at two local businesses and was turned down; either they were fully staffed or he was too young. A friend alerted him to a hot dog stand for sale and it was out of the teen’s price range, but the seed was planted.

Ryan found a stand in Kansas for a reasonable price and used his savings to buy it. As he couldn’t drive, his parents drove him to pick it up. Meanwhile, the previous owner helped get him started.

“He gave me a dish set that I still use, he gave me an umbrella, he gave me trays, he gave me a ton of advice,” Ryan said. “He pret-

ty much gave me everything except food.”

Ryan said that after a successful launch event, his first few weeks’ income dropped to less than minimum wage, but he kept his head above water by maintaining low overheads and soaking up the experience of being his own boss.

The teen is busy scouting colleges; he wants to study pediatric dentistry, majoring in business so that he can run his own clinic one day.

“It was absolutely amazing to be doing something myself,” he said, adding that connecting with other business owners was key. “Learning from them is the biggest thing. If you keep your mouth closed, you learn a lot more than when you talk.”

As Ryan’s Dawgs picked up in popularity, the teen started serving breweries and bars on Friday and Saturday nights, initially worrying his parents, who were concerned for his safety. Yet Ryan’s delicious menu has yet

to attract trouble; paperwork, he claimed, has been his only major challenge to date.

It wasn’t feasible to get a permit at age 16, so Ryan’s parents co-signed. He said the bank had never processed business ownership for someone so young, and they “had to call the manager.”

“I have a picture of me standing in front of that bank, and it was a surreal feeling,” he recalled.

While the teen hit a low during his first winter, probably making around “\$200 all of December,” he said the unwavering support of friends, family, and other small-business owners got him through. His father’s ever-present mantra helped, too: “If you put this many hours into it, eventually it’s going to pay off.”

Noting that “most people don’t even start a business in their own lifetime, let alone at such a young age,” Ryan said anybody his age could do what he did.

“When you’re 16, people think that they can’t do everything, or they think everything should be given to them, or they’re lazy. My perspective is ... if I waste all of these years, I can’t get them back at my age, and I’m in the best position I ever will be.”

Epoch Times staff member Arshdeep Sarao contributed to this report.

FOR KIDS ONLY

THE EPOCH TIMES

Hope

by Emily Dickinson

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune—without the words,
And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.

I’ve heard it in the chilliest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

CHERNIKOV SISTERS/SHUTTERSTOCK

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU CROSS A TURTLE WITH A PORCUPINE?

= ?

ALL IMAGES BY SHUTTERSTOCK; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY THE EPOCH TIMES

“The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home.”

CONFUCIUS (551 B.C.–479 B.C.) ANCIENT CHINESE PHILOSOPHER

PUBLIC DOMAIN

This Week in History



WASHINGTON DISBANDS HIS ARMY

On Nov. 4, 1783, Gen. George Washington proclaimed the Continental Army—the force that secured America’s freedom in its Revolutionary War victory—disbanded. Washington proclaimed: “From and after the 15th day of this instant November all Troops within the above description shall be considered as discharged from the service of the United States. And all Officers commanding Corps or Detachments of any such Troops are hereby directed to grant them proper discharges accordingly.”

After bidding his troops farewell over the following weeks, Washington returned home thinking his service to his country had concluded.

By Aidan Danza, age 15

THE ANTARCTIC

ANTARCTICA: A MAJESTIC LAND INHABITED BY MANY MAJESTIC CREATURES

The Antarctic is one of the last, if not the last place on earth with little to no human presence.

The outside islands of Antarctica, perhaps, are habited, but there are no permanent residents in Antarctica. Of course, Antarctica is extremely cold, making life difficult for any being, not just humanity, but there are many plants and animals that manage to survive and thrive in this coldest of continents.

Even in the summer, it looks quite foreign, with grassy or rocky shores devoid of trees, and large mountains in the distance. In the winter, this is all covered by ice and snow. Antarctica is divided roughly in half by the Transantarctic Mountains, which run roughly along the line dividing the Western and Eastern hemispheres. It’s permanently covered by a vast ice sheet, which waxes and wanes with temperature. The average thickness of this sheet is 5,900 feet, more than a mile, and Antarctica’s ice constitutes 90 percent of the world’s fresh water.

Antarctica, is, of course, the coldest place on Earth. The lowest recorded temperature on earth was recorded in Antarctica, at Russia’s Vostok Station, at negative -128 degrees F. At its warmest, Antarctica in the summer can reach around 52 degrees F. Plants are rare in Antarctica, and most are mosses and lichens, along with a few grasses that can tolerate the harsh conditions. The animal inhabitants of Antarctica are mostly birds and sea mammals, such as penguins, skuas and petrels (large, gull-like birds), and seals. The petrels and skuas have been sighted in the far interior of the continent, suggesting that they sometimes cross the continent.

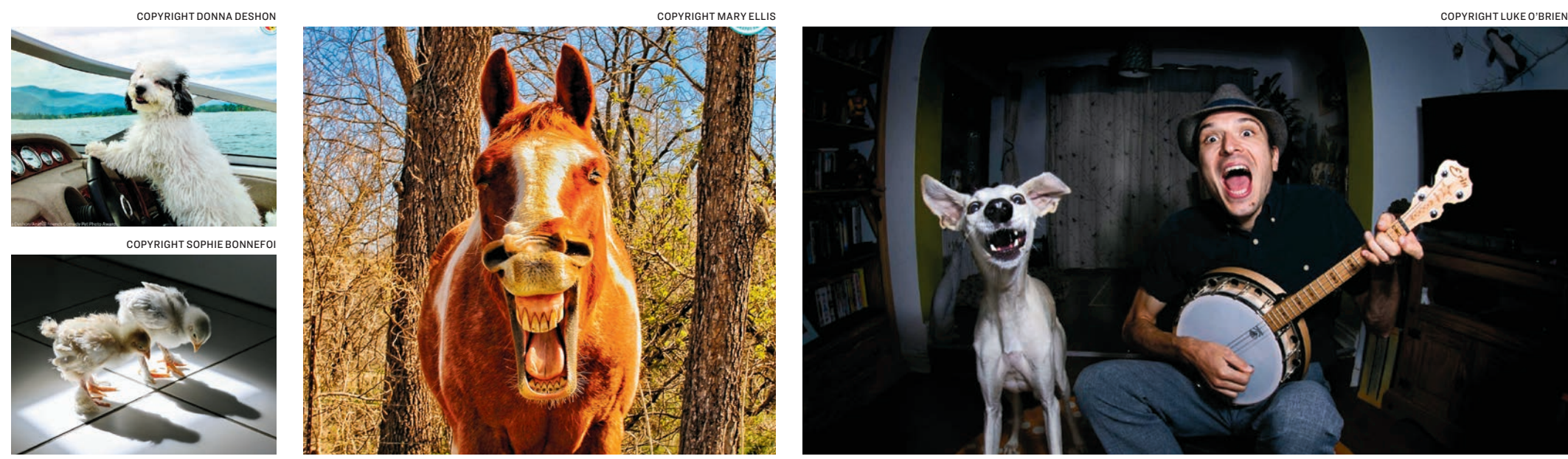
In the winter, all the birds flee the continent, except the Emperor Penguin. The female will transfer her egg to the male’s feet, and then she will go away to sea, spending the entire winter there, while all the males ride out the winter in large huddles, to conserve heat. When the female returns, the egg will have hatched, and the hungry chick is transferred to the female, while the male goes back out to sea to eat. In total, there are around 600,000 emperor penguins living in Antarctica.

Emperor penguins.

A humpback whale.

Crabbeater seals.

ALL IMAGES BY SHUTTERSTOCK; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY THE EPOCH TIMES



JUST FOR LAUGHS

Pet Moments That Will Make You Smile

Comedy Pet Photography Awards releases finalist photos

EPOCH INSPIRED STAFF

Sure, it’s been a crazy few months (going on years) lately, but our furry friends at home have softened the blow and made it bearable. Our pets provide constant hilarity and unconditional love—no matter what’s going on in the world.

Looking on the bright side, many pet photo opportunities presented themselves at home. All the laughs and love these adorable photos exude are offered up for the world to enjoy, thanks to the Comedy Pet Photography Awards in the UK, which received more

than 200 entries from all over the globe. Now that they’ve whittled that number down to 40 finalists and released the photos, that much-needed pet therapy is now available for all.

Those include hysterical dogs photobombing otherwise perfect pictures; a dog joy-boarding on the lake, steering wheel in paw; a horse so happy it can’t help but smile for a photo; and more.

The Comedy Pet Photography Awards partnered with Animal Friends Insurance to award 10,000 pounds (approx. \$13,800) to the Animal Support Angels charity, which

provides pet food, shelter, and veterinary care to suffering animals.

The Comedy Pet Photography Awards will hand the top image 2,000 pounds (\$2,760) when the winners are chosen in November.

But for now, kick back, relax, and enjoy a few laughs from these priceless pictures. Pets truly are medicine for the soul.

Share your stories with us at emg-inspired@epochtimes.com, and get your daily dose of inspiration by signing up for the Epoch Inspired newsletter at TheEpochTimes.com/newsletter



AMAZING ESCAPES!

Down

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- 3 Friends and acquaintances (4)
- 5 Tot (5)
- 6 Family enlarger (8)
- 9 Descendant (7)
- 10 “Family” (5)
- 12 “Fortunate” one (4)
- 16 Abe Simpson, to Bart (6)
- 17 Polly, to Tom (4)
- 19 “Come to ___!” (4)

Across

- 1 Relations (7)
- 4 Cry of surrender (5)
- 7 Family member (6)
- 8 Not family, just a ____ (6)
- 11 Paw (3)
- 13 They may be identical (4)

Easy puzzle 1

4	10
54	
4	10

+

Solution for Easy 1

4 + 10 = 14

Medium puzzle 1

11	16
93	
5	12

+

Solution for Medium 1

91 + 11 = (9 - 2)

Hard puzzle 1

8	32
56	
1	15

+

Solution for Hard 1

1 + 8 = 9 + 28

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