

# Succeeding Excerpts

## An American History 1865 to 1900

Copy Right Gary Douglas Stern

### I. SPACE

It all started with the government space program of the sixties...

\*\*

With the payload and communication infrastructures in place by the 1870's, Washington and Jefferson's goals for an agricultural society could finally become a reality... It never happened. The space itself was the clue. Washington and Jefferson were right that it would shape the future, but it worked out in a way that they would not imagine...

\*\*

Jefferson's 1000<sup>th</sup> generation of abundance, the talk of "healthy, vigorous, and beautiful people", and 'rainfall following the plow', on careful examination, might have been dismissed as a product of the nuttys enthusiasm, that Americans would often demonstrate, drinking their new world water --- a habit they would luckily never discard --- but in comparison to the situation to the situation the 15 million faced with their home country land plight, the pictures painted through the promotion exercises of railroads trying to find settlers to give more asset value to the space, were overwhelmingly attractive...

\*\*

They probably gave homage to this thirty minutes of thoughts and fears, without ever completely realizing the collective rite of review in their souls, as their steamships shuddered out to sea: 15 million people standing on the decks of thirty-five years of boats pulling out of Europe's harbors, looking back and wondering, until there was nothing but water to see...

## 2. NEW PEOPLE

They were corrupt, but they were also rather human, the only hope the new people thought they had for a listening ear in the new land. It was “*help you understand; none of your law and justice, but help*”, a Boston ward boss explained...

\*\*

Scalan’s mother, Clancy, the fireman, Mister Hicks, the Connock man’s family back of the dumps, Slaughnessy, these were the “heroes iv th’ wurruld, la-ad’s that buckled on th’ gloves and gone out to do th’ best they cud...quiet people, nayether you nor me hears tell iv”...

## 3. LARGE PEOPLE

In 1987, a modern Burlington Northern railroad would try to free itself from strick covenants, that J.P.had put into a bond issue during his lifetime, over *one hundred years earlier*. The court disallowed this, and J.P. held the day without inviting anyone on to the Corsair to scold them. An implacable stare --- seventy years in the grave --- backed them all off again...

\*\*

Ron Chernow in biographing J.P. Morgan, noted that he actually seemed to grow larger, as he recedes in time. Indeed these people all seem to grow larger as you look back. John Rockefeller created the oil industry, big biz, and the ‘billionaire’ all at one throw, while his legal department single handedly brought to the economy, the trust system, for others to cast rocks at, for twenty years, and then conjured up ‘public relations’ to ‘spin’ themselves against the resultant public image, that they had earned...

## 4. ONE TRAIN WAITING

From the singing Grange meetings, to the arguments and problems solving of the Farmer Alliance meetings where the local politicians visited, Jefferson's agrarian Americans looked to learn how they could get their government to help them find solutions...

\*\*

It seemed 15 million disoriented and poor new arrivals tipped the scales against proper organization for working hours and wages, up to a point --- somewhere in the eighties --- where a few individuals in their midst, some like Samuel Gompers, a first generation immigrant himself, started to find a way to use that very same weight to push back against employers, who had been able to disregard a collective voice...

\*\*

They sent Susan to jail for a while in any case, for trying to cast a ballot on election day...

\*\*

'Hard money'? The currency of the country was a matter of political debate throughout this period. There was no Central bank, and thus policy was set by congress. During the War between the states, the dollar was backed only by the federal government without a precious money parity, and the dollar varied with general Grant's battles in the south, dropping to thirty-nine cents after the failure of his army's first drive on Richmond...

\*\*

The Republican convention of 1880 politely accepted Hayes decision not to run, while they happily awaited the opportunity to end his civil service reform, New York customs house and elsewhere, (and awaited the end of first lady 'Lemonade Lucy's' reign over white house beverage selection)...

\*\*

The McKinley white house had 15 telephones, and McKinley was the first president to trust ‘voice communication’ for important matters...

## 5. WORLD

It was as if a new nation had done something to call itself among the majors, like Germany and Britain and France. The implications of such a world profile would of course be lost on these Americans, for although they had learned the *placename implication* of ‘Santiago Harbor’, the implications of placenames like ‘Argonne’, ‘Ypres’, ‘Bataan’, ‘Normandy’, ‘Iwo Jima’, ‘Hiroshima’, ‘Inchon’, ‘Hue’, ‘Lockerbie’, ‘Basra’, ‘Mogadishu’, ‘Pristina’. ‘World Trade Center’, ‘Kabul’, ‘Fallujah’ could not have registered with them at all, or with their Presidents, in their time...

\*\*

Of course, the U.S. did not have the military authority to enforce the Monroe Doctrine in 1823, or in 1895...

\*\*

It was in these times that Hearst wrote down in an editorial, “It is the Journal’s policy to engage brains as well as to get the news, for the public is even more fond of entertainment, than it is of information.” It is a statement people would not forget in the future, when they looked back at the Spanish American war of 1898...

## 6. TURN

There wasn’t a credit card in the country. They got along fine without. Sears ‘Send no money’ campaign, at one time from had Sears shipping out 10,000 ladies hats a week from their Chicago distribution center, and receiving back 1500 hats a week, from women who were not satisfied, and women who changed their minds...

\*\*

Competition came to the dime novel by the nineties, and the answer seems to have been to increase violence and bloodshed in the script. Calamity Jane was rough, but always feminine in the genteel tradition of so many items, before the mid-eighties. Late eighties onward, brought dime novel characters like Phantom Moll, '*The Girl Footpad*' (?) Eighteen, owner of the Eureka Saloon, she smokes, drinks, swears, and had been known to fist fight. Times are changing...

\*\*

Since of our list of historic personalities here, Dooley and Hennessy were the ones who were never really her, they are equally the ones who we can see as *always* being here with us --- Dooley commenting on his Republic, Hennessy listening --- out on the cosmic end of '*Archev Road*', with McKenna, Slaughnessy, Clancy, Schwarzmeister, Mister Hicks, Scanlan's mother, and the Connock man's family back of the dumps, looking on...