

# White Plains Historical Society

Founded in 1983 • Successor to the Battle of White Plains Monument Committee

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## White Plains Historical Society

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## A Tribute to Jack Harrington 1919-2017

by Rob Hoch, Trustee, White Plains Historical Society

"Top o' the morning to you!" ALMOST EVERY CONVERSATION with John W. Harrington, whether light or consequential, began with these six words. They were immediately welcoming, disarming, and conveyed to the recipient a certain charm and intellect. You were about to have a talk with Jack. It could be just a sociable discussion, but more likely than not, by the time he was done, you had just been given a common-sense education in a matter of pressing importance to him about the City of White Plains.

On May 14, 2017, Jack Harrington passed-on at the age of 97 after a remarkable life marked by service and dedication to his country, community and family; and our Society firmly believes he was one of the most effective champions of historic preservation in the City of White Plains.



John W. (Jack) Harrington, 1919-2017

Born November 8, 1919 in Oswego, NY, Jack was a 1937 Oswego High School graduate. With World War II approaching, Jack first joined the United States Navy, where he trained crews to operate PT and gunboats, and was eventually assigned to the Bureau of Ships, 11th Amphibious Force/Combined Operations, London. After the war, Jack enlisted in the United States Marine Corps (1946-1949) where he attained the rank of Staff Sergeant, and was assigned to Marine Headquarters, Washington, DC.

After his military service, Jack earned a degree from Cornell University (1952). In 1953, Jack married Margaret "Peg" Salmon; a union that lasted 59 years until Peg's death in 2012. Peg and Jack were a team in every respect, from raising a family (three children: Debby, Pam and Jack Jr.) to running the White Plains Historical Society where Peg managed the books for many years. They made White Plains their home after Jack's employer, The Hartford, offered him the opportunity to work in New York City. Jack later worked for The Travelers and Swiss Re as a Certified Life Underwriter and Vice President of Sales in their Reinsurance Division.

Jack and Peg dove into White Plains civic life. Jack was deeply involved in environmental conservation (he was the "Father of the Greenway") and city planning projects as well as citizen review of school budgets; but historic preservation was where he made his greatest mark. Jack served as our Society's president for 22 years and was a key activist,

(cont'd. on page 2)

## Jack Harrington (Cont'd. from page1)

including preserving, documenting and placing markers at historic sites throughout our City. Among his many accomplishments as Society President, Jack was instrumental in adding several local properties to the New York State and National Register of Historic Places. Among these were: *Good Counsel Academy Complex* (52 North Broadway); *People's National Bank & Trust Company* (31 Mamaroneck Avenue); and the *Bar Building* (199 Main Street)

Although it is not a National Landmark, Jack devoted considerable energy to the creation of the White Plains Greenway. While its creation significantly contributed to accessible, open space for City residents, Jack was motivated to save this land based on its history as the right-of-way for the *New York, Westchester & Boston Railway* which operated there from 1912 to 1937. The property was subsequently named in Jack's honor and designated a City landmark.

Jack also managed the upkeep of the Jacob Purdy House National Historic Site, our Society's headquarters. He was not averse to contacting someone locally with carpentry, masonry or metal working skills to volunteer in making essential repairs to the property. Jack commissioned several bronze plaques to commemorate the national significance of the Purdy House, as well as that of several other historic sites in White Plains.

Jack was instrumental in securing funding for the Society, including a significant loan from the James A. MacDonald Foundation, for the third reprint of *Yesterday in White Plains* by Renoda Hoffman. He worked closely with Renoda to secure the legacy of her writings, and, together with the late Judge Bob Friedman, facilitated the donation of her five copyrights to the Society.

Jack's advocacy did not begin and end with specific projects. He was constantly talking to stakeholders in government, business, and the community so historic preservation was always on their minds. Jack had an artful way of approaching and engaging the purchaser of a historic property to make them realize the true significance of what they owned. Preserving street names was also of great importance to Jack (since many of those honor Revolutionary War heroes, or early settlers of White Plains).

Jack was also a long-time trustee of the Westchester County Historical Society. Upon hearing of his death, WCHS Executive Director Katie Hite said, that in addition to all his other qualities, "Jack should have given lessons on how to grow old." His interest in preserving history remained until the very end. In fact, he appeared before the Common Council at the age of 95 to advocate for the passage of the City's Historic Preservation Law.

We at the White Plains Historical Society are ever grateful to Jack Harrington for his tenacity and dedication to historic preservation. Our organization and the White Plains community are forever the beneficiaries of his life's work.

In 2015, as part of the White Plains Public Library's *Oral History Project*, Jack was interviewed about his life by his neighbor, and WPHS Trustee, Barbara Carlson. Those interested in hearing Jack look back on his remarkable 10-decade journey can hear the 3 part interview at:

<https://whiteplainslibrary.org/2016/11/people-stories-oral-history-project-jack-harrington/>

## Elijah Miller House to Be Restored . . . at Last!

Just beyond the northern tip of White Plains, on Virginia Road in North White Plains, stands the 279-year-old farmhouse known as "Washington's Headquarters." Although there is some dispute among historians as to whether this was his military headquarters, historic documentation has shown that it was used by General George Washington as a meeting place during the 1776 Battle of White Plains, and he bunked there as a guest of the owner, Ann Fisher Miller – who lost two sons and her husband, Elijah Miller, in the Revolutionary War. According to Ann's daughter, Zipporah Miller Davis, General Washington had his headquarters at the house one day and slept there one night during October 1776.\*

For many years open to the public as a museum, the Elijah Miller House (a National Landmark) has been closed, fenced off and neglected for more than 20 years. Numerous efforts have been made to find a way to restore the precious historical landmark; and now it appears that goal is to become a reality. In early May 2017 a tentative agreement was reached between Westchester County, the Town of North Castle and two non-profit



Elijah Miller House: one of "Washington's Headquarters"

local history groups that seek to renovate the Miller House and re-open it to the public on a permanent basis. The County agreed to renovate the building with \$1.3 million set-aside for that purpose. Once renovation work is completed the plan envisions that the County will turn over ownership of the property to the Town of North Castle. The two non-profit groups: Friends of the Miller House/Washington's Headquarters and Daughters of Liberty's Legacy (D.O.L.L.) together with North Castle's Elijah Miller House Committee will initiate a fund-raising campaign from private sources to maintain and operate the house and re-open it as a museum with educational presentations and special events. D.O.L.L. president Cynthia Kauffman and co-founder Debra Palazzo said they founded the D.O.L.L. organization in part for the purpose of saving the Miller House. Through the Westchester County Historical Society they found the gravesite of Ann Fisher Miller in White Plains and a colonial style headstone was made and placed there next to the graves of her husband and sons at the Presbyterian Church cemetery on North Broadway in White Plains. Ms. Kauffman describes the Miller House as a "piece of American history that's definitely worthy of preserving. It should become a living place again, a place to teach children and the community about how we became a country." The Miller House also served as field hospital and troop campground in 1776, and again in 1778 and 1781.

*\*Washington also used as his headquarters during the Battle of White Plains the **Jacob Purdy House**, now located at 60 Park Avenue in White Plains; and also a national, state and local historical landmark.*

# World War I and White Plains

by Barbara Carlson, Trustee, White Plains Historical Society



The United States entered World War I in April 1917 (100 years ago) on the side of the “Entente Cordiale” (England and France; Russia had dropped out) by declaring war on Germany. Although the European war had been going on since 1914, President Woodrow Wilson’s watchword for foreign policy had been ‘neutrality.’ He had been re-elected in 1916 as the man who had kept America out of war.

However, feeling had begun to change in 1915 with the German sinking of the British ship *Lusitania*, in which 128 Americans were killed. Wilson pushed military preparedness and in January, 1917, Germany began unrestricted submarine warfare in the North Atlantic. And so, in spite of the brutality of trench warfare and seemingly endless battles with tremendous numbers of soldiers and civilians on both sides killed, Wilson asked Congress on April 2, 1917 for a declaration of war; in his speech, he declared:

“It is a distressing and oppressive duty, Gentlemen of the Congress, which I have performed in thus addressing you. There are, it may be, many months of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us. It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance. But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts, --for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free.”

The speech received thunderous applause, and war was declared on April 6, 1917.

What was World War I like in White Plains? The information available to us comes largely from Louisa Lockwood, a DAR member and eventual city historian, who published a book entitled “World War History of the City of White Plains” in 1926. Mrs. Lockwood describes the initial reaction to President Wilson’s declaration of war as not only immediate response to “sign up” and serve in the military, but patriotic enthusiasm on the part of



the citizens of White Plains. Fund raisers were held by local churches and other groups; these involved entertainments such as street carnivals, music programs and church suppers. Also, large sums of money were raised for the relief and support of other countries such as Belgium and France. Local activities reflected White Plains’ citizens’ support for the war. The White Plains Red Cross participated in numerous ways: daily “work room” sewing of surgical dressings and knitting of woolen garments such as sweaters and socks.

(Continued on page 5)

## World War I & White Plains (Continued from page 4)

The Red Cross supplied every soldier from White Plains with a complete “knitted outfit and comfort bag”. A recreational canteen was opened and staffed by Red Cross workers. All of the public schools and most of the private schools were enrolled in the Junior Red Cross.

On Main Street, in a space donated by the New York Central Railroad, the Salvation Army created an area for recreation purposes for the soldiers. Lunches were served and musical entertainments as well as writing paper and stamps were furnished. The Salvation Army also distributed cakes and chocolates at the hospitals and provided spiritual support.

Some of the local war efforts were massive. A “Canning Kitchen” was established during the summer and fall of 1917 and 1918 in a downtown White Plains building occupying almost a city block and using over 500 workers. Local women donated produce from their own farms and gardens; over fifty thousand jars of vegetables, jams and jellies were sent out from the Kitchen. These jars were sent to American hospitals as well as hospitals abroad (for example, thirty-one 700-pound boxes were sent to the hospital at Saloniki, Greece).



Three hundred seventy-six White Plains High School graduates and teachers served in the military during WWI, and fifteen lost their lives. However, the entire student body participated in the war effort. Various fund raisers were conducted and in two campaigns, students were asked to earn and donate five dollars apiece, and almost every student and teacher responded. White Plains High School girls and teachers knitted over 800 sweaters, socks and other articles; they also “reknit” the toes and heels of socks from the Red Cross Headquarters. Many boxes of books and magazines as well as puzzles and Christmas boxes were sent to soldiers in numerous places. In an interesting activity, students collected baskets of “fruit pits and nut shells” which were used in the making of gas masks.

Perhaps the most motivated and devoted group was the War Mothers Unit. Throughout the war, the war mothers displayed a flag with a blue star in their window, denoting the service of a son or daughter. A gold star was sewn over the blue one if that son or daughter was killed. The War Mothers were active in fund raising as well as providing direct services to wounded soldiers in local hospitals.

In spite of the 800 who served, and the thirty-four men who would be killed, White Plains was a proud and enthusiastic supporter of the American war effort. Mayor Farrington Thompson said, “This is too good a world, to be ruled over by a German Kaiser, or any of his ‘Potsdam’ gang, and White Plains is in this war until the victory is won by us, and the world is made once more safe for all peoples.”

*Stay tuned for the next White Plains Historical Society newsletter to learn about the end of the war and its local commemoration.*

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*Many thanks to Elaine Massena, City Archivist, and Ben Himmelfarb, White Plains Historical Librarian for their assistance and support.*



## Annual Dinner Features Award and Historical Presentation

White Plains Historical Society's annual dinner and business meeting was held May 4, 2017 at the Woman's Club of White Plains with more than 100 people in attendance. Following a cocktail reception, a uniformed color guard began the festivities, including recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance led by Liz Quiñones, and singing of "America, the Beautiful" led by Isabel Hoch. An invocation was delivered by Captain Alexandro Castillo of The Salvation Army, White Plains Chapter.



John Vorperian & Christine Roithmayr

Christine Roithmayr was honored as the "Citizen Extraordinaire" for 2017 by the Historical Society for her more than 25 years of work with the March of Dimes and leadership and charitable programs carried out by the Woman's Club of White Plains. She has also built a legacy of work as a Girl Scout leader, PTA Board Member and Board Member of the O'Rourke Irish Dancers Foundation. Ms. Roithmayr was introduced by New York State Assemblyman David Buchwald; and presented with the award by Historical Society President John Vorperian. She received additional proclamations from White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, Westchester County Legislator Ben Boykin, and Assemblyman Buchwald. Dozens of family members and friends were on hand to congratulate her on the well-deserved honors.



Prof. Howard Ehrlich

The historical presentation for the evening was given by guest speaker Professor Howard Ehrlich of St. John's University. He is past director of the Theodore Roosevelt Association and has been closely associated with the Roosevelt family and historic home of Teddy Roosevelt, Sagamore Hill. His topic was "America's Royal Family: The Roosevelts (Teddy and Franklin)." With a series of slides and commentary he traced the chronological history of Teddy as well as Franklin and Eleanor, who were cousins, and niece and nephew to Teddy. It was a timely topic, as 2017 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America's entry into World War I; and all three Roosevelts in the discussion were part of that event and era that had a monumental historic impact on

White Plains, America and the world at large.

At the dinner the White Plains Historical Society conducted its annual business meeting in which officers were elected by the membership to serve for the coming year. These included President – John Vorperian; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Peter Stone; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Debra Palazzo; Treasurer – Louis DeGenaro.



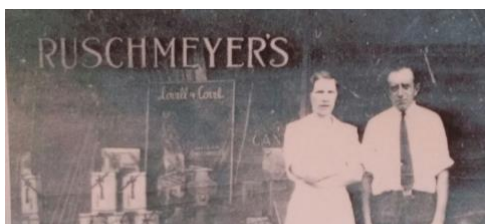
Teddy, Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt

## Newsletter Article Scoops Up Ice Cream Memories

The “White Plains Ice Cream Wars” article in the Spring 2017 newsletter prompted a considerable response from newsletter readers. The challenge to select a favorite between **Milk Maid** and **Daddy Michael’s** brought in votes as well as comments that detailed readers’ experience and memories. **Milk Maid** won the popular voting with 64.3% over **Daddy Michael’s** 35.7%; but the results were skewed because **Milk Maid** had a much longer run; i.e., more than 30 years, while **Daddy Michael’s** had a much shorter existence, as noted below from reader, Jim Noonan:

“I loved the article and history.... I worked at **Milk Maid** while in high school and college, full time summers and part time during the school year.... All of the ice cream flavors and the showcase items such as the flying saucers, tinker bells, ice cream cakes, frozen chocolate covered bananas, etc., were home made on the premises daily.... From my memory **Daddy Michael’s** was short lived, only a few years.... **Milk Maid** was iconic and served the pleasure of many a youth and adult alike in the County for ice cream treats, as well as its lunch and dinner menu items featuring the best flame broiled burgers around! It was a definite stopover for many after swimming all day at Saxon Woods Pool and a great hangout for teens in the summer evenings. I still have some **Milk Maid** memorabilia.... It has my vote!”

Another newsletter reader from White Plains, Renie Koehnken, extended ice-cream-related local history back to the 1920’s. Her family owned and operated **Ruschmeyer’s** ice cream parlor near the corner of Post Road and South Lexington Avenue (now a used car lot) from the late 1920’s to 1962, when it was sold to **Daddy Michael’s**. Her in-laws, Hermann and Meta Koehnken purchased the business and name, which was well known in the confectionary world. Hermann Koehnken made all the ice cream himself. His daughter-in-law Renie says “Pop’s peach ice cream was notorious. Just



Hermann & Meta Koehnken, late 1920’s



Hermann Koehnken behind the ice cream bar

enough ice cream to hold the peaches together. It only lasted a couple of weeks in the summer, but a small sign in the window saying ‘Peach Ice Cream’ brought on the stampede.” Ruschmeyer’s was a candy store, too, offering special items for Christmas and Easter. Ms. Koehnken writes: “The store and business are both long gone, but not forgotten by those of us lucky enough to have lived (in White Plains) through those years.”

## Jay Saldi — White Plains Cowboy

by John Vorperian, President, White Plains Historical Society

Jay Saldi played 9 NFL seasons for the Dallas Cowboys (1976-1982) and Chicago Bears (1983-1984). On December 30, 1979, in a NFC playoff game the 6' 3" 225lbs tight end caught Hall of Fame quarterback Roger Staubach's last career touchdown pass.

John Jay Saldi IV, born October 8, 1954 in White Plains, grew up in the hamlet of Silver Lake. He attended White Plains High School (Class of '72). At that time, the school served neighboring municipalities that had no high school of their own. Saldi's graduating class was the last group to be ruled by this policy. Jay did not play organized football until the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. His father, an athlete himself, encouraged Jay to enjoy sports like soccer & basketball. By delaying Jay's introduction



"Reserve tight end Jay Saldi, blocked a punt to help Dallas beat Philadelphia two weeks earlier, slid eight yards on his back into the end zone with Bobby Hammond's fumbled punt for the game's first score." -*The Sporting News*, Nov. 19, 1977

to the gridiron, the elder Saldi may have been ahead of his time concerning player health and safety. A starter on the White Plains High School varsity basketball and football teams, in 1971 Jay played in the first "Turkey Bowl" on Thanksgiving Day involving White Plains and Archbishop Stepinac High Schools. The Tigers football team won 19-7. Saldi was named to All-County, All-State & *Parade Magazine's* All-American teams.

Looking back at those years, Jay credits his life success to his father, Coach Brandt Witherstein, and school administrator Harry Jefferson in emphasizing the principles and importance of accountability, structure, and discipline in reaching one's goals. Football scholarship offers came from 20 colleges, including Maryland and Syracuse. Saldi selected University of South Carolina. The Gamecocks gave a promise (which they rescinded) that he could play basketball, too. At South Carolina he was on the offense one season and the next held a defense position. In 1975 Saldi went to the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando, FL, as SC played Miami (OH). His USC college football performance was honored in 1992 as he joined South Carolina's All-Time Team.

Overlooked in the 1976 NFL Draft, he was signed as a free agent by the Dallas Cowboys. Slotted as a tight end, Saldi had to compete with Pro Bowler Billy Joe Dupree for playing time. Saldi captained the special teams unit which handled kick-offs and punts. He was a member of the Dallas' Super Bowl XII championship squad.

In order to get more playing time, in May 1983 Saldi prompted Dallas to trade him. He started 6 games in 1983 and 7 in 1984 for Head Coach Mike Ditka's Chicago Bears. His overall NFL statistics amassed 112 games played, 26 started with 7 touchdowns. In 2015 Jay Saldi was named to the White Plains Sports Hall of Fame.

John Vorperian hosts *BEYOND THE GAME*, Altace 76, Fios 45, & [www.wpcommunitymedia.org](http://www.wpcommunitymedia.org).

Thank you to Jay Saldi, John Saldi & Saldi Excavating Co. and Don Gano for their help with this article.



## White Plains Public Parks: What's the History Behind the Names?

How many times have you stood, sat or strolled in one of White Plains' beautiful parks and enjoyed the facilities and surroundings, but were unaware of the history behind the park's name? Please read on.

**Battle of White Plains Park** - Most visible remaining piece of land on which the actual Battle of White Plains was fought in 1776. The cannon was donated by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

**Druss Park** – Named in 1974 in memory of Louis A. Druss who served as Councilman from 1946-1957.

**Mattison Park** – Named for William E. Mattison in 1949. Superintendent of Recreation from 1928-1949.

**Mitchell Place Tot Lot** - Named for the street which was named for Minot Mitchell, who erected his law office next to the original courthouse (now the site of the Armory) and also built a mansion on Broadway in 1812.

**Turnure Park** – Dedicated in 1966 by Governor Nelson Rockefeller. Named for J. Harvey Turnure, former White Plains City Councilman, prominent attorney and local civic and political leader.

**Delfino Park** – Named in memory of Carl J. Delfino in 1974. He served as Councilman from 1963-1973; and Mayor in 1974; and died in office. His younger brother, Joseph Delfino, served as Mayor from 1998-2010.

**Gardella Park** – Named in 1974 for George J. Gardella, Jr., who served as City Court Judge from 1967-70.

**Gillie Park** – Named in 1981 in memory of Leslie B. Gillie, a Common Council member from 1935-1949.

**Kittrell Park** – Named for Rosa A. Kittrell in 1978. She was a longtime resident of the city who devoted her life to humanitarian causes; was founder of the Carver Community Center and the Kittrell Nursery School (later renamed White Plains Child Daycare).

**Jack Harrington Greenway** – Named for Jack Harrington, "Father of the Greenway," local historian and leader of the movement to preserve and create this park. The old New York, Westchester, & Boston Railroad line which ran on this property opened in 1912 and closed in 1937.

**Jacob Purdy Park** - Jacob Purdy House was constructed in 1721 and was a military headquarters during the Revolutionary War. The Purdy family home was used by General Washington for several days at the 1776 Battle of White Plains and then again for 2 months during the summer of 1778.

**Tibbits Park** – Named in 1931 to honor Charles H. Tibbits "Due to his untiring efforts and deep personal interest, the present park of flowers, shrubs, and tree has been made possible." He served as a member of the Shade Tree Commission from 1922-1927 and the Planning Board in 1927.

**Liberty Park** - Named to honor city residents who lost their lives at the World Trade Center on 9/11/01.

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*Many thanks to Fran Croughan of the WP Dept. of Recreation & Parks for providing background information.*

## Sarah Cassidy Named Winner of 2017 Hoffman Scholarship Award

The White Plains Historical Society awarded its annual scholarship this year to White Plains High School student, Sarah Cassidy. The award, named for former White Plains Historian Renoda Hoffman, is given annually by the White Plains Historical Society to a local graduating high school senior. Sarah was chosen from among a group of students who submitted essays on the significance of the Battle of White Plains in late October of 1776, during the Revolutionary War.

During Sarah's years at the high school she participated in JV and varsity soccer, symphonic band, jazz band, pit orchestra and French Club. She also took part in a clothing drive for the Middle School. The scholarship award was presented to her by Historical Society president John Vorperian at a ceremony on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the White Plains High School auditorium.

Sarah is attending Fordham University this fall, with a course concentration in Psychology and Music.

## Picnic Supper & Theater Outing at Boscobel Features Benedict Arnold Tale

Members of the White Plains Historical Society and Daughters of Liberty's Legacy (DOLL) traveled to Boscobel, the historic site of the Dyckman home and grounds in Garrison NY, for a picnic supper and live performance of the play "The General from America", about Benedict Arnold. On the banks of the Hudson River, the picnic setting featured a spectacular view of the Hudson Valley and West Point Military Academy (Arnold's own command during the Revolutionary War). The large theater tent on the same lawn provided the venue for the play, written by Richard Nelson and performed by the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival ensemble.



Benedict Arnold



Scene from "The General from America"

The weather was perfect, the picnic was luscious and the play was captivating. Howard Waldman, former Historical Society Trustee, commented "The play ... was superb. It was at least as good as any good Broadway show. The acting was excellent. The costumes were great. The story was good, and it even made me feel for Arnold and why he did what he did." A historical discussion during the bus ride to the event made the outing more educational and also more fun for the group of twenty attendees.

# White Plains Historical Society

## Upcoming Events:

- George Washington's Birthday Celebration • Sunday, Feb. 25, 2018
- Annual Meeting & Dinner • Thursday, May 3, 2018

*Mark your calendar now.*

## HISTORY TRIVIA QUIZ

~The Name's the Same~

Match the name of a Revolutionary War military commander in Column-A with that of a contemporary person in Column-B.

(Hint: Most A's were at the Battle of White Plains, Oct. 28, 1776)

[Use first or last name from Column-B]

A.

B.

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. General "Mad Anthony" _____ | A. Spike Lee         |
| 2. General Horatio _____       | B. André Previn      |
| 3. General Charles _____       | C. Bill Gates        |
| 4. General Sir William _____   | D. Linda Hamilton    |
| 5. Brig. Gen'l. "Lord" _____   | E. Chelsea Clinton   |
| 6. Colonel Joseph _____        | F. Graham Greene     |
| 7. Colonel John _____          | G. Reggie Wayne      |
| 8. General Henry _____         | H. Lindsey Stirling  |
| 9. General George _____        | I. Spencer Tracy     |
| 10. General Nathaniel _____    | J. Gordie Howe       |
| 11. Captain Alexander _____    | K. Mel Brooks        |
| 12. Major John _____           | L. Denzel Washington |

Answers posted on our website:

<[www.whiteplainshistory.org](http://www.whiteplainshistory.org)>



"History, like love, is so apt to surround her heroes with an atmosphere of imaginary brightness."

-- James Fenimore Cooper

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