



From Sea to Shining Sea

Katharine Lee Bates and the story of
“America the Beautiful”



**RESOURCE &
STUDY GUIDE**



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FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

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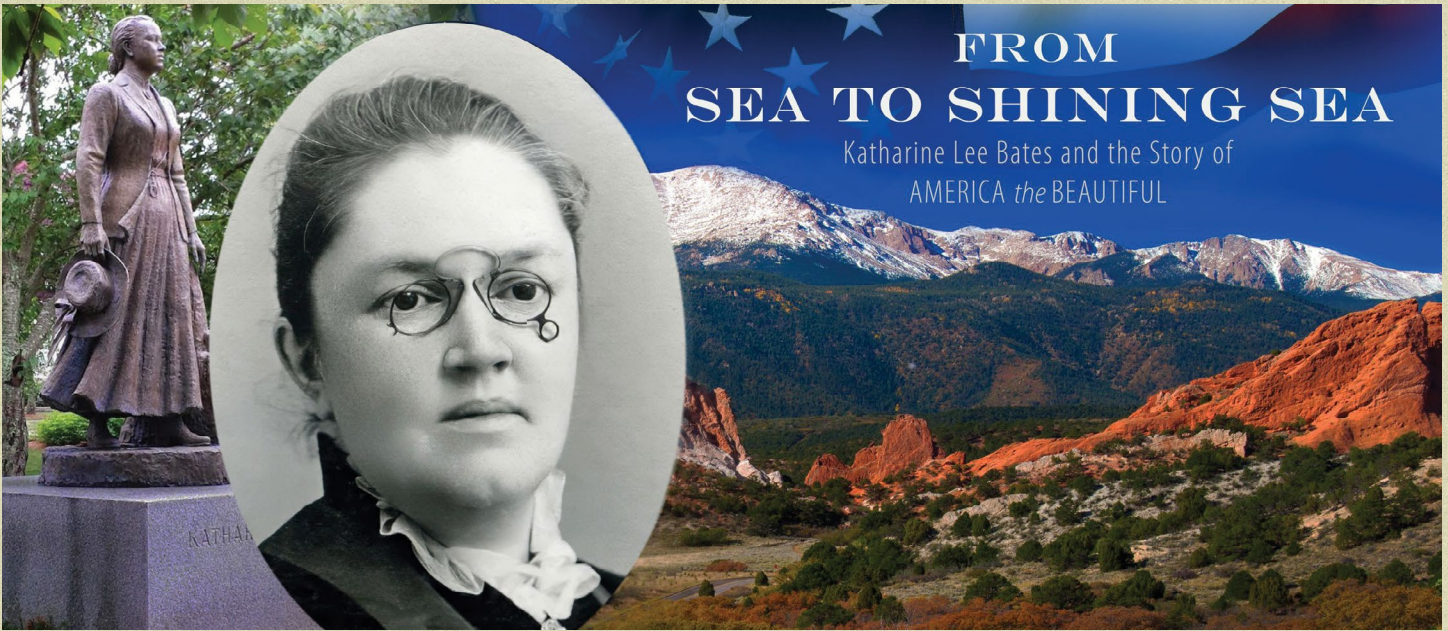
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“That the hymn has gained, in these twenty odd years, such a hold as it has upon our people, is clearly due to the fact that Americans are at heart idealists, with a fundamental faith in human brotherhood.”

— Katharine Lee Bates



FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA: Katharine Lee Bates and the Story of “America the Beautiful”
a film by John de Graaf

“America the Beautiful” may be America’s most beloved song. But few know about the fascinating life of the writer behind it: poet, long-time professor at Wellesley College and social reformer Katharine Lee Bates.

The first words of her poem America (later set to music and called “America the Beautiful”) came to Bates as she surveyed the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains from the broad summit of Colorado’s Pikes Peak on July 22, 1893. Bates penned lyrics that reflect both a love for her country and a desire for reform. The song does not ignore the fact that the United States has often not lived up to its promises and ideals, yet it honors the unbroken chain of Americans who, living up to those ideals and loving their country deeply, strived to make it all it can be.

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America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountains majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrims feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country
loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!



*** WHO WAS KATHARINE LEE BATES? ***

Katharine Lee Bates was a scholar, author, poet, and advocate for social reform. She had keen interests in history and politics. She saw good in people and the world but was unafraid to speak and write about what

she felt was very wrong - and what needed to change. She loved her country and lived during a pivotal era of American history. It's clear from what she advocated for, that she was also ahead of her time.



Bates was born a few years before the American Civil War. She longed to see a more equal and inclusive America. She personally experienced sexism and discrimination. She fought for Native Americans, was among the first to protest against animal cruelty by refusing to wear fur, opposed capital punishment, and stood for immigrants, the poor, world peace, and the rights of women.

She lived to see achievements that she argued for and helped champion, including the ratification of the 19th Amendment, enshrining a woman's right to vote in 1920. But she was dismayed by the Spanish-American War and war with the Philippines and only reluctantly supported American participation in World War I, afterwards she worked hard for the proposed League of Nations, which the United States Senate failed to recognize. In her final speech, she asked Americans to consider the whole world as one community,

“from sea to shining sea.”

Her travels in 1893, at the age of 33, greatly impacted her life and legacy. She had already developed an appreciation for nature and simplicity at Wellesley, yet her writings were often about people - civilization and



PIKES PEAK PANORAMA.

culture. She saw beauty in both. She visited the futuristic Chicago World’s Fair that year and was struck by “the alabaster city” which gleamed in white.

When asked about her primary inspiration for “America the Beautiful,” whose first verses were jotted into her notebook that summer in 1893, while she taught in Colorado, she remarked:

“One day, some of the teachers and I decided to go on a trip to 14,000-foot Pikes Peak. We hired a prairie wagon. Near the top we had to leave the wagon and go the rest of the way on mules. I was very tired. Then I saw the view. I felt great joy. All the wonder of America seemed displayed there, with the sea-like expanse.”

* QUESTIONS AND PROMPTS FOR DISCUSSION *

1. READ ALL FOUR VERSES OF THE SONG “AMERICAN THE BEAUTIFUL.” DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE? WHY DID BATES WRITE THOSE WORDS—WHAT WAS SHE REFERRING TO? DO YOU AGREE WITH HER?
2. HOW DO YOU THINK BATES MIGHT FEEL ABOUT THE TREATMENT OF IMMIGRANTS IN AMERICA TODAY?
3. DO YOU KNOW MEN OR WOMEN WHO SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES. HOW DO THEY FEEL ABOUT THEIR SERVICE?
4. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE FACT THAT BATES ASKED HATTIE TO GIVE HER DOLLS AND TOYS TO “POOR INDIANS” SAYS ABOUT HER CONCERNS?
5. DO YOU KEEP A DIARY? WHY OR WHY NOT?
6. HOW DO YOU THINK EDUCATION FOR WOMEN HAS CHANGED IN AMERICA? WHAT CHANGED IT?
7. CAN BEING IN NATURE CHANGE YOUR MOOD WHEN YOU ARE DEPRESSED OR SAD?
8. WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO BE YOUR LEGACY, THE THING YOU ARE REMEMBERED FOR?
9. HAVE YOU HAD THE EXPERIENCE THAT SOMETHING YOU WERE VERY UNHAPPY ABOUT TURNED INTO “A BLESSING IN DISGUISE.”
10. WHAT DO YOU THINK MARK TWAIN MEANT BY “GILDED AGE”?
11. DO YOU THINK BATES WAS RIGHT IN REFUSING TO TAKE THE WELLESLEY COLLEGE TRUSTEES’ CHRISTIAN PLEDGE? WHY OR WHY NOT? PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF HOW THESE ISSUES ARE BEING CONTESTED TODAY.
12. WOULD YOU HAVE WANTED TO WORK IN A SETTLEMENT HOUSE? WHY OR WHY NOT?
13. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE LINE IN THE SONG “THINE ALABASTER CITIES GLEAM UNDIMMED BY HUMAN TEARS” MEANS?
14. WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST BEAUTIFUL IN AMERICA? THE MOST UGLY? HOW DO THESE TWO THINGS AFFECT YOUR EMOTIONS?
15. WHAT DID BATES MEAN BY THE FOLLOWING LINE? *“America, America, God shed thy grace on thee/Till selfish gain no longer stain the banner of the free...”* WHY DO YOU THINK SHE “SOFTENED” IT?
16. IF YOU WROTE A POPULAR SONG, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO GIVE IT AWAY? WHY OR WHY NOT?

17. IF YOU WERE ALIVE THEN, DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD HAVE SUPPORTED THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR, OR BATES' OPPOSITION TO IT? WHY?
18. CAN YOU THINK OF OTHER EXAMPLES IN OUR HISTORY THAT ARE SIMILAR TO WHAT HAPPENED IN THE FILIPINO AMERICAN WAR?
19. WHAT DID BATES MEAN BY THE LINE "CONFIRM THY SOUL IN SELF-CONTROL"?
20. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE "HOLY LAND" TODAY? HOW DO YOU THINK BATES WOULD HAVE FELT ABOUT IT? HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?
21. DO YOU THINK BATES MADE THE RIGHT DECISION WITH VIDA SCUDDER OR DO YOU THINK SHE SHOULD HAVE FIRED HER? WHY OR WHY NOT?
22. SHOULD THE US HAVE JOINED THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS? WHY OR WHY NOT. DO WE HAVE SOMETHING SIMILAR TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS TODAY? WHAT DO FEEL ABOUT IT?
23. DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF AN INTERNATIONALIST LIKE BATES, OR MORE OF A NATIONALIST? WHY?
24. HOW WILL (OR HOW DID) YOUR COMMUNITY OR STATE COMMEMORATE THE 250 ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, ALSO KNOWN AS AMERICA250?



* CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES *

- 1)** ASK STUDENTS TO CRAFT THEIR OWN VERSE TO “AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL” BASED ON THEIR OWN UNDERSTANDING OF BATES’ INSPIRATIONS AND MOTIVATIONS FOR WRITING THE POEM “AMERICA.”

- 2)** ASK STUDENTS TO WRITE A POEM, OR ESSAY, ABOUT A PLACE THEY KNOW. THEY MIGHT WRITE ABOUT THE COUNTRY OR TOWN THEY COME FROM, A COMMUNITY OR EVENT THEY VALUE, THE SCHOOL OR NEIGHBORHOOD. WHAT DO THEY LOVE ABOUT IT? WHAT THINGS COULD BE IMPROVED?

- 3)** HAVE STUDENTS FORM SMALL GROUPS AND SELECT ONE HISTORICAL U.S. OR WORLD EVENT THAT OCCURED DURING BATES’ LIFETIME, AND PREPARE A SHORT ORAL PRESENTATION. STUDENTS COULD ALSO SPECULATE ON WHAT BATES MAY HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT THE EVENT BASED ON THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF BATES.

- 4)** RESEARCH AND WRITE A BIOGRAPHY OF ONE OF THE PEOPLE IN KATHARINE LEE BATES’ STORY WHO WERE MAJOR FIGURES IN AMERICA AT THE TIME.

- 5)** IN HER TIME, KATHARINE LEE BATES WANTED TO SEE CHANGE IN AMERICA. SOME OF THE WAYS SHE TRIED TO ENCOURAGE THAT CHANGE INCLUDED VOLUNTEERING, WRITING—BOTH IN POETRY AND AS A JOURNALIST—AND CAMPAIGNING, SUCH AS ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN’S RIGHT TO VOTE. IN WHAT WAYS CAN PEOPLE TRY TO IMPROVE THE WORLD TODAY?

- 6)** KATHARINE LEE BATES WAS INSPIRED BY THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF AMERICA. EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THAT BEAUTY THROUGH THE CREATION OF NATIONAL PARKS WERE JUST BEGINNING WHEN SHE WROTE HER POEM “AMERICA.” BY 1900, THERE WERE FOUR NATIONAL PARKS. EXPLORE WAYS THAT NATURE IS BEING PROTECTED TODAY. HAS THE APPRECIATION OF THE NATURAL WORLD CHANGED? STAYED THE SAME? HOW SO?

- 7)** RESEARCH AND COMPARE THE DIFFERENCES IN HOW DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE—BY ETHNICITY, CULTURAL GROUPS, GENDER—WERE TREATED BY SOCIETY IN KATHARINE LEE BATES’ TIME, AND TODAY.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS: PLACES, SONGS, PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE FILM “FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA”

Intended to help students and others to understand references from the film, as many may be unfamiliar to them. Short summaries are primarily from Wikipedia and other sources and are far from complete. The links below each item will lead students to more information if desired. The terms in the Glossary for the most part refer to themes or subjects mentioned in the film itself.

✧ LOCATIONS ✧

• **Boston, Massachusetts**

Boston is the capital and most populous city in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the United States. The city serves as the cultural and financial center of New England. Boston was founded on the Shawmut Peninsula in 1630 by English Puritan settlers. In 1898, Boston was the center of opposition to the Spanish-American and Philippine wars. Katharine Lee Bates was part of that movement.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston>

<https://www.boston.gov>

<https://www.boston.com>

• **Boston’s Mechanics Hall**

Mechanics Hall was a building and community institution on Huntington Avenue at West Newton Street, from 1881 to 1959. In 1928 a great crowd filled Boston’s Mechanics Hall to hear Katharine Lee Bates final speech.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mechanics_Hall_\(Boston,_Massachusetts\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mechanics_Hall_(Boston,_Massachusetts))

<https://mechanicshall.org>

<https://lostnewengland.com/2015/09/mechanics-hall-boston/>

• **Broadmoor Casino, Colorado Springs**

In July 1891, the Broadmoor Casino opened on the east side of Cheyenne Lake in Colorado Springs. A white two-story Georgian-style building, it included dining rooms, ballrooms, game and billiard rooms, a bar, and a reading room. Katharine Lee Bates went dancing at the Broadmoor Casino in the summer of 1893. It is now a very prominent luxury hotel.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Broadmoor

<https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/broadmoor>

<https://www.broadmoor.com>

https://gazette.com/news/colorado-springs-first-broadmoor---the-broadmoor-casino/collection_3dbe4a59-7982-548d-8c71-c07e709baf5.html#1

• **Cape Cod**

Cape Cod is a peninsula extending into the Atlantic Ocean from the southeastern corner of Massachusetts, in the northeastern United States. Its historic, maritime character and ample beaches attract heavy tourism during the summer months. Katharine Lee Bates was born in Falmouth, Massachusetts on the west end of Cape Cod.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Cod

<https://www.capecod.com>

<https://www.visittheusa.com/destination/cape-cod>

• **Colorado College**

Colorado College, in Colorado Springs was founded in 1874 by U.S. Civil War veteran General William Jackson Palmer, the founder of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. Founder Thomas Nelson Haskell of the Presbyterian Church described it as a coeducational liberal arts college in the tradition of Oberlin College. As many U.S. colleges and universities that have endured from the 19th century, it now is secular in outlook but retains its focus on the liberal arts. Katharine Lee Bates wrote “America the Beautiful” during her summer teaching position at Colorado College in 1893.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colorado_College

<https://www.coloradocollege.edu>

• **Colorado Springs**

Colorado Springs is the county seat of, El Paso County, Colorado at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. It is where the Colorado College is located and where Katharine Lee Bates spent her summer teaching in 1893, just before writing AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colorado_Springs,_Colorado

<https://coloradosprings.gov>

- **Luxor, Egypt**

Luxor is a city in Upper Egypt, which includes the site of the Ancient city of Thebes. Luxor has frequently been characterized as the “world’s greatest open-air museum”. Bates visited Luxor on her trip to Egypt in 1906 and was reminded of how historical empires have fallen.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luxor>

- **Ellis Island, New York**

Ellis Island is at the entrance to New York Harbor near the Statue of Liberty. Millions of European immigrants first arrived in the United States here during Bates’ lifetime.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellis_Island

<https://www.nps.gov/elis/index.htm>

<https://www.statueofliberty.org>

- **Falmouth, Massachusetts**

Falmouth is a port town in Barnstable County, Massachusetts, United States. Falmouth was first settled by English colonists in 1660 and was officially incorporated in 1686. Early principal activities were farming, salt works, shipping, whaling, and sheep husbandry. Katharine Lee Bates was born in Falmouth in 1859 and lived there until 1871, returning during her summer vacations.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falmouth,_Massachusetts

<https://www.falmouthma.gov>

- **Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs**

Garden of the Gods is a public park located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Helen Hunt Jackson wrote of the park, “You wind among rocks of every conceivable and inconceivable shape and size... all bright red, all motionless and silent, with a strange look of having been just stopped and held back in the very climax of some supernatural catastrophe.” Katharine Lee Bates visited Garden of the Gods in the summer of 1893.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garden_of_the_Gods

<https://gardenofgods.com>

- **Holy Land, The**

The Holy Land is an area roughly located between the Mediterranean Sea and the eastern bank of the Jordan River, traditionally synonymous both with the biblical Land of Israel and with the region of Palestine. Bates visited it in 1906, walking along the Sea of Galilee and climbing the small peak where Jesus is said to have delivered The Sermon on the Mount.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Land

International Institute for Girls, Spain

A school established in the late 19th century in Santander, Spain, by American missionary Alice Gordon Gulick, it was primarily focused on providing higher education which was considered progressive at the time. Katharine Lee Bates helped support the school and visited it in 1899.

<https://findingaids.smith.edu/repositories/4/resources/6>

<https://www.esmadrid.com/en/tourist-information/instituto-internacional-de-senoritas-de-espana>

• Middle East, The

The Middle East is a geopolitical region encompassing the Arabian Peninsula, the Levant, Turkey, Egypt, Iran, and Iraq. In 1906, Bates spent the summer 1906 in the Middle East with president Wellesley's president Caroline Hazard.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East

• Nantucket, Massachusetts

Nantucket is an island in the state of Massachusetts in the United States, about 30 miles (48 km) south of the Cape Cod peninsula. Nantucket is the southeastern most town in both Massachusetts and the New England region. The name "Nantucket" is adapted from similar Algonquian names for the island. Ships from Bates' hometown of Falmouth sailed past Nantucket and into the broad Atlantic Ocean.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nantucket>

<https://www.nantucket-ma.gov>

• Niagara Falls, New York

Niagara Falls is a group of three waterfalls at the southern end of Niagara Gorge, spanning the border between the province of Ontario in Canada and the state of New York in the United States. Katharine Lee Bates stopped at Niagara Falls on the way to Colorado in 1893 and found it outstandingly beautiful.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niagara_Falls

<https://www.niagarafallsusa.com>

<https://www.niagarafallsstatepark.com>

• Oxford, England

The University of Oxford is a research university in Oxford, England. It is the oldest university in the English-speaking world, founded in 1096. Katharine Lee Bates studied at Oxford in 1890 and 1891 as she earned a master's degree from Wellesley, and returned to Oxford often in subsequent years.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxford>

<https://www.ox.ac.uk>

• **Pikes Peak, Colorado**

Pikes Peak is the highest summit of the southern Front Range of the Rocky Mountains in North America. The ultra-prominent 14,115-foot peak is located in Pike National Forest, 12 miles (19 km) west of downtown Colorado Springs, Colorado. Katharine Lee Bates wrote the first verse of AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL in July 1893, after a trip to the summit of Pikes Peak.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pikes_Peak

<https://coloradosprings.gov/drivepikespeak>

• **Wellesley College**

Wellesley College is a private women's liberal arts college in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Founded in 1870, and opened in 1875, it is a member of the Seven Sisters Colleges, an unofficial grouping of current and former women's colleges in the northeastern United States. Wellesley was founded by Pauline and Henry Fowle Durrant, believers in educational opportunity for women, who intended that the college should prepare women for "great conflicts, for vast reforms in social life". Katharine Lee Bates was a student at Wellesley from 1876-1880 and a professor there from 1885-1925.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellesley_College

<https://www.wellesley.edu>

• **Wellesley, Massachusetts**

Wellesley is a town in Norfolk County, Massachusetts and a part of Greater Boston. It was settled in the 1600s as part of Dedham, Massachusetts. The town was named after the "Wellesley" estate of local benefactor Horatio Hollis Hunnewell. Katharine Lee Bates lived in Wellesley from 1871 until her death in 1929.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellesley_Massachusetts

<https://wellesleyma.gov>

✱ PEOPLE ✱

• **Addams, Jane** (September 6, 1860 – May 21, 1935)

Addams was an American settlement activist, reformer, social worker, sociologist, public administrator, philosopher, and author. She was a leader in the history of social work and Women's suffrage. Bates visited with Addams at her famous institution Hull House in Chicago in 1893. Addams was also part of the anti-imperialist response to the Spanish American War.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Addams

• **Bryan, William Jennings** (September 6, 1860 – May 21, 1935)

William Jennings Bryan was an American lawyer, orator, and politician. He was a dominant force in the Democratic Party, running three times as the party's nominee for President of the United States in the 1896, 1900, and 1908 elections. He served in the House of Representatives from 1891 to 1895 and as the Secretary of State under Woodrow Wilson from 1913 to 1915. Because of his faith in the wisdom of the common people, Bryan was often called "the Great Commoner." Bryan was also part of the anti-imperialist movement.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Jennings_Bryan

- **Carnegie, Andrew** (November 25, 1835 – August 11, 1919)

Carnegie was born in Dunfermline, Scotland. He immigrated to what is now Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States with his parents in 1848 at the age of 12. He became a Scottish-American industrialist and philanthropist who devoted the remainder of his life to large-scale philanthropy, with special emphasis on building local libraries, working for world peace, education, and scientific research. He too, was part of the anti-imperialist movement.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Carnegie

- **Caruso, Enrico** (25 February 1873 – 2 August 1921)

Enrico Caruso was an Italian and later, American opera star. His voice was legendary and among the first to be put on records. Many of his recordings still remain.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enrico_Caruso

- **Chaucer, Geoffrey** (1343 – 25 October 1400)

Geoffrey Chaucer was an English poet, author, and civil servant best known for The Canterbury Tales. He has been called the “father of English literature,” or, alternatively, the “father of English poetry.” Katharine Lee Bates studied Chaucer at Oxford and was an expert on his work.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geoffrey_Chaucer

- **Cleveland, Grover** (March 18, 1837 – June 24, 1908)

Stephen Grover Cleveland was the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, from 1885 to 1889 and again from 1893 to 1897. He was the first Democrat to win election to the presidency after the Civil War and the first of two U.S. presidents to serve nonconsecutive terms. He also joined the anti-imperialist movement against the Spanish American War.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grover_Cleveland

- **Coman, Katharine** (November 23, 1857 – January 11, 1915)

Katharine Ellis Coman was an American social activist and professor. At Wellesley College she created new courses in political economy, in line with her personal belief in social change. As dean, she established a new department of economics and sociology and is often considered the founder of the academic discipline of industrial sociology. She was Katharine Lee Bates romantic partner from 1890 until Coman’s death from cancer in 1915.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katharine_Coman

- **Durant, Henry Fowle** (February 20, 1822 – October 3, 1881)

Henry Fowle Durant (born Henry Welles Smith) was an American lawyer and philanthropist, as well as the co-founder, with his wife, Pauline Durant, of Wellesley Female Seminary, which became Wellesley College.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Fowle_Durant

- **Goldman, Emma** (June 27, 1869 – May 14, 1940)

Emma Goldman was a Lithuanian-born anarchist revolutionary, political activist, and writer. She played a pivotal role in the development of anarchist political philosophy in North America and Europe in the first half of the 20th century.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emma_Goldman

- **Harrison, Benjamin** (August 20, 1833 – March 13, 1901)

Benjamin Harrison was the 23rd president of the United States, serving from 1889 to 1893. He was a member of the Harrison family of Virginia—a grandson of the ninth president, William Henry Harrison, and a great-grandson of Benjamin Harrison V, a Founding Father. A Union Army veteran and a Republican, Harrison defeated incumbent Grover Cleveland to win the presidency in 1888. He joined Cleveland as part of the anti-imperialist movement.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Harrison

- **Hazard, Caroline** (June 10, 1856 – March 19, 1945)

Caroline Hazard was an American educator, philanthropist, and author. She served as the fifth president of Wellesley College, from 1899 to 1910 and traveled to the Middle East with Bates in 1906.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caroline_Hazard

- **Hearst, William Randolph** (April 29, 1863 – August 14, 1951)

William Randolph Hearst Sr. was an American newspaper publisher and politician who developed the nation's largest newspaper chain and media company, Hearst Communications. His flamboyant methods of yellow journalism in violation of ethics and standards influenced the nation's popular media by emphasizing sensationalism. He was instrumental in building up American support for the Spanish American War.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Randolph_Hearst

- **Lincoln, Abraham** (February 12, 1809 – April 15, 1865)

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States, serving from 1861 until his assassination in 1865. He led the United States through the American Civil War, defending the nation as a constitutional union, defeating the Confederacy, playing a major role in the abolition of slavery, expanding the power of the federal government, and modernizing the U.S. economy. His assassination in 1865 was Katharine Lee Bates' first memory.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln

- **Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth** (February 27, 1807 – March 24, 1882)

An American poet and educator, Longfellow's original works include the poems "Paul Revere's Ride," "The Song of Hiawatha," and "Evangeline." Born in Portland, Maine, he graduated from Bowdoin College and became a professor there and, later, at Harvard College. His first major poetry collections were *Voices of the Night* (1839) and *Ballads and Other Poems* (1841). He retired from teaching in 1854 and lived the remainder of his life in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Bates met him in 1879.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Wadsworth_Longfellow

- **McKinley, William** (January 29, 1843 – September 14, 1901)

William McKinley was the 25th president of the United States, serving from 1897 until his assassination in 1901. A member of the Republican party, he led a realignment that made Republicans largely dominant in the industrial states and nationwide for decades. He successfully led the U.S. into the Spanish-American War, overseeing a period of American expansionism, with the annexations of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Philippines and Hawaii. His imperialist ambitions were opposed by Katharine Lee Bates and immortalized in her words, “America, America, God mend thine every flaw. Confirm thy soul in self-control.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_McKinley

- **Nation, Carrie Amelia** (November 25, 1846 – June 9, 1911)

Caroline Amelia Nation often referred to as Carrie Nation, or Hatchet Granny, was an American who was a radical member of the temperance movement, which opposed alcohol before the advent of Prohibition. Nation is noted for attacking alcohol-serving establishments (most often taverns) with a hatchet.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carrie_Nation

- **Theodore Roosevelt** (October 27, 1858 – January 6, 1919)

Theodore Roosevelt Jr. also known as Teddy or T. R., was the 26th president of the United States, serving from 1901 to 1909. Roosevelt previously was involved in New York politics, including serving as the state’s 33rd governor for two years. He served as the 25th vice president under President William McKinley for six months in 1901, assuming the presidency after McKinley’s assassination. As president,

Roosevelt emerged as a leader of the Republican Party and became a driving force for anti-trust and Progressive policies. Roosevelt advocated the seizure of colonies during the Spanish American and Philippine American War, imperialistic ambitions that were opposed by Katharine Lee Bates and many other Americans.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt

- **Scudder, Vida** (December 15, 1861 – October 9, 1954)

Julia Vida Dutton Scudder was an American educator, writer, welfare activist and follower of St. Francis, in the social gospel movement. Scudder taught English literature from 1887 at Wellesley College, where she became an associate professor in 1892 and full professor in 1910. Part of Katharine Lee Bates’ department and an avowed Christian Socialist, Vida joined the Lawrence Textile Strike of 1912, turning some wealthy donors against Wellesley.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vida_Dutton_Scudder

- **Shakespeare, William** (April 1564 – 23 April 1616)

William Shakespeare was an English playwright, poet and actor. He is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world’s pre-eminent dramatist. He is often called England’s national poet and the “Bard of Avon” (or simply “the Bard”). Shakespeare remains arguably the most influential writer in the English language, and his works continue to be studied and reinterpreted. Katharine Lee Bates taught many courses about Shakespeare, one of her favorite writers.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Shakespeare

- **Twain, Mark** (November 30, 1835 – April 21, 1910)

Samuel Langhorne Clemens known by the pen name Mark Twain, was an American writer, humorist, and essayist. He was praised as the “greatest humorist the United States has produced” with William Faulkner calling him “the father of American literature.” Mark Twain called the era “The Gilded Age.” The rich lived in luxury, while the poor, arriving by the millions, grew destitute. He was a leader of the anti-imperialist movement that opposed the Spanish Civil War.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Twain

- **Washington, Booker T.** (April 5, 1856 – November 14, 1915)

Booker Taliaferro Washington was an American educator, author, and orator. Between 1890 and 1915, Washington was a primary leader in the African-American community and an advocate of education and equality for Blacks. Born into slavery, Washington was freed during the Civil War. With Bates and others, he was a vocal opponent of the Spanish American War.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Booker_T._Washington

- **Whitman, Walt** (May 31, 1819 – March 26, 1892)

Walter Whitman Jr. was an American poet, essayist, and journalist; he also wrote two novels. He is considered one of the most influential poets in American literature. Whitman incorporated both transcendentalism and realism in his writings and is often called the father of free verse. His poetry often focused on both loss and healing. I hear America Singing was among his most famous poems.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt_Whitman

- **Wilson, Woodrow** (December 28, 1856 – February 3, 1924)

Thomas Woodrow Wilson was the 28th president of the United States, serving from 1913 to 1921. He was the only Democrat to serve as president during the Progressive Era when Republicans dominated the presidency and legislative branches. As president, Wilson changed the nation’s economic policies and led the United States into World War I. He was the leading architect of the League of Nations, receiving strong support from Katharine Lee Bates.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodrow_Wilson

※ HISTORICAL EVENTS ※

- **Revolutionary War, 1775-1783**

The American Revolutionary War also known as the Revolutionary War or American War of Independence, was an armed conflict that was part of the broader American Revolution, in which American Patriot forces organized as the Continental Army and commanded by George Washington defeated the British Army. The conflict was fought in North America, the Caribbean, and the Atlantic Ocean. The war ended with the Treaty of Paris (1783), which resulted in Great Britain ultimately recognizing the independence of the United States of America. Bates immortalizes Revolutionary War soldiers in AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Revolutionary_War

- **Civil War, 1861-1865**

The American Civil War was a civil war in the United States between the Union (“the North”) and the Confederacy (“the South”), which was formed in 1861 by states that had seceded from the Union. The central conflict leading to war was a dispute over whether slavery should be permitted to expand into the western territories, leading to more slave states, or be prohibited from doing so, which many believed would place slavery on a course of ultimate extinction. Decades of controversy over slavery came to a head when Abraham Lincoln, who opposed slavery’s expansion, won the 1860 presidential election. Bates was moved by the men in her village who died to end slavery.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War

- **Abolition of slavery, 1863**

Abolitionism, or the abolitionist movement, was the political movement to end slavery and liberate enslaved individuals around the world. The first country to fully outlaw slavery was France in 1315, but it was later used in its colonies. In the United States, Pennsylvania and Vermont were the first states to abolish slavery, Vermont in 1777 and Pennsylvania in 1780 (Vermont did not join the Union until 1791). By 1804, the rest of the northern states had abolished slavery but it remained legal in southern states. By 1808, the United States outlawed the importation of slaves but did not ban slavery – except as a punishment – until 1865. The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution took effect in December 1865, seven months after the end of the war, and finally ended slavery for non-criminals throughout the United States. It also abolished slavery among the Indian tribes, including the Alaska tribes that became part of the U.S. in 1867.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abolitionism>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abolitionism_in_the_United_States

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slavery_in_the_United_States

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/slavery-abolished/>

- **President Lincoln assassination, 1865**

Lincoln’s support for Black rights proved fatal. Soon after the Civil War ended, President Abraham Lincoln gave a speech that argued for Black men and veterans to have the right to vote. John Wilkes Booth was in the audience. Enraged that Lincoln supported Black citizenship, Booth vowed, “That is the last speech he will ever make.” Booth shot Lincoln three days later. He was the first U.S. president to be assassinated. Bates was five when Lincoln was assassinated and always remembered her mother’s grief.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_of_Abraham_Lincoln

<https://www.indianamuseum.org/blog-post/why-booth-shot-lincoln/>

- **Settlement House Movement, 1890s**

The settlement movement was a reformist social movement that began in the 1880s and peaked around the 1920s in the U.K. and the U.S. Its goal was to bring the rich and poor of society together in both physical proximity and social connection. Its main objective was the creation of “settlement houses” in poor urban areas, in which volunteer middle-class ‘settlement workers’ would live, hoping to share knowledge and culture and alleviate the poverty of their low-income neighbors. This movement was introduced in the U.S by Jane Addams after learning about the system in England. Bates helped establish Denison House, a settlement house in Boston, in 1892.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Settlement_movement

- **Economic depression of 1893**

The Panic of 1893 was an economic depression in the United States. It began in February 1893 and officially ended eight months later, but the effects from it continued to be felt until 1897. It was the most serious economic depression in our history until the Great Depression of the 1930s. The Panic of 1893 deeply affected every sector of the economy and produced political upheaval that led to the political realignment and the presidency of William McKinley. Katharine Lee Bates mourned its impact on the poor as she traveled across the US in 1893. She yearned for an America “undimmed by human tears.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panic_of_1893

- **World’s Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893**

The World’s Columbian Exposition, also known as the Chicago World’s Fair, was a world’s fair held in Chicago from May 5 to October 31, 1893, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’s arrival in the New World in 1492. The centerpiece of the Fair, held in Jackson Park, was a large water pool representing the voyage that Columbus took to the New World. Chicago won the right to host the fair over several competing cities, including New York City, Washington, D.C., and St. Louis. The exposition was an influential social and cultural event and had a profound effect on American architecture, the arts, American industrial optimism, and Chicago’s image. Bates visited its White City in 1893, immortalizing it in AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World%27s_Columbian_Exposition

- **Cripple Creek mining camp—Colorado Gold Rush, 1893**

The Pikes Peak gold rush (later known as the Colorado gold rush) was the boom in gold prospecting and mining in the Pikes Peak Country of western Kansas Territory and southwestern Nebraska Territory of the United States that began in July 1858 and lasted until roughly the creation of the Colorado Territory on February 28, 1861. An estimated 100,000 gold seekers took part in one of the greatest gold rushes in North American history. Bates was appalled by the greed she saw in Cripple Creek in 1893, writing “America, America, May God thy Gold Refine” in her famous anthem.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pike%27s_Peak_gold_rush

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cripple_Creek_Gold_Rush

- **Battle of Manila Bay, 1898**

The Battle of Manila Bay also known as the Battle of Cavite, took place on May 1, 1898, during the Spanish-American War. The battle took place in Manila Bay in the Philippines, and was the first major engagement of the Spanish–American War. The battle was one of the most decisive naval battles in history and marked the end of the Spanish colonial period in Philippine history.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Manila_Bay

- **The Maine explosion, 1898**

The USS Maine was a U.S. Navy ship that sank in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898, contributing to the outbreak of the Spanish–American War. U.S. newspapers, engaging in yellow journalism to boost circulation, falsely claimed that the Spanish were responsible for the ship’s destruction. “Remember the Maine! To hell with Spain!” became a rallying cry for action.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Maine_\(1889\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Maine_(1889))

- **Spanish-American War, 1898-1900**

The Spanish–American War (April 21 – December 10, 1898) was fought between Spain and the United States in 1898. It began with the sinking of the USS Maine in Havana Harbor in Cuba, and resulted in the U.S. Acquiring sovereignty over Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines, and establishing a protectorate over Cuba. It represented U.S. intervention in the Cuban War of Independence and Philippine Revolution, with the latter later leading to the Philippine-American War. The Spanish–American War brought an end to almost four centuries of Spanish presence in the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific; the United States meanwhile not only became a major world power, but also gained several island possessions spanning the globe, which provoked rancorous debate over the wisdom of expansionism. Katharine Lee Bates was very opposed to the war, as part of the anti-imperialist movement in Boston.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish-American_War

- **Philippine-American war, 1901-1904**

Known alternatively as the Philippine Insurrection, Filipino–American War, or Tagalog Insurgency. Emerged following the conclusion of the Spanish-American War in December 1898, when the U.S. annexed the Philippine Islands under the Treaty of Paris. Philippine nationalists constituted the First Philippine Republic in January 1899, seven months after signing the Philippine Declaration of Independence. The U.S. did not recognize either event as legitimate; tensions escalated until fighting commenced on February 4, 1899, in the Battle of Manila. Bates wrote angry poems against the US slaughter of Filipinos during the war.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippine_American_War

- **Bread and Roses Strike, Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1912**

The Lawrence Textile Strike, also known as the Bread and Roses Strike, was a strike of immigrant workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 1912 led by the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Prompted by a pay cut, the strike spread rapidly through the town, growing to more than twenty thousand workers and involving nearly every mill in Lawrence. Bates sympathized with the strikers and her colleague Vida Scudder joined them on the picket lines.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1912_Lawrence_textile_strike

- **Great War—World War I, 1914-1918**

World War I (July 28, 1914 – November 11, 1918), also known as the Great War, was a global conflict between two coalitions: the Allies (or Entente) and the Central Powers. Fighting took place mainly in Europe and the Middle East, as well as parts of Africa and the Asia-Pacific, and in Europe was characterized by trench warfare; the widespread use of artillery, machine guns, and chemical weapons (gas); and the introductions of tanks and aircraft. World War I was one of the deadliest conflict in history, resulting in an estimated 10 million military dead and more than 20 million wounded, plus some 10 million civilian dead from causes including genocide. The movement of large numbers of people was a major factor in the deadly Spanish flu pandemic. Though Bates initially opposed the war and wrote poems mourning it, she eventually joined other Wellesley faculty in supporting Woodrow Wilson's entry into the war, fearing German armies would destroy European civilization.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I

• **Woman Suffrage, 1920**

Women's suffrage, or the right of women to vote, was established in the United States over the course of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, first in various states and localities, then nationally in 1920 with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. The bill providing for voting rights for women, was first introduced in Congress in 1878 and took 42 years to pass. Bates was active in the movement for Woman Suffrage.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_suffrage_in_the_United_States

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/19thamendment#:~:text=Passed%20by%20Congress%20June%204,decades%20of%20agitation%20and%20protest>

* **SPECIFIC EXPRESSIONS** *

• **America The Beautiful – the story**

“America the Beautiful” began as a poem by Katharine Lee Bates and its music was composed by church organist and choirmaster Samuel A. Ward at Grace Episcopal Church in Newark, New Jersey, though the two never met. The poem was first published in the Fourth of July 1895 edition of the church periodical, The Congregationalist. At that time, the poem was titled “America” Ward had initially composed the song’s melody in 1882 to accompany lyrics to ““Materna” basis of the hymn, “O Mother dear, Jerusalem”, though the hymn was not first published until 1892. The combination of Ward’s melody and Bates’s poem was first entitled “America the Beautiful” in 1910. The song has often been proposed to be America’s National Anthem.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/America_the_Beautiful

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/spotlight-primary-source/america-beautiful-1893>

<https://www.hymnologyarchive.com/america-the-beautiful>

<https://www.nerdintheword.com/america-beautiful-youve-never-heard/>

• **Armistice of 1918**

An armistice is a formal agreement of warring parties to stop fighting. The Armistice of 11 November 1918 was signed in a railroad car, in the Forest of Compiègne near the town of Compiègne, France, that ended fighting on land, at sea, and in the air in World War I.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armistice>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armistice_of_11_November_1918

• **Bates’ church in Falmouth, MA**

In the center of Falmouth, Massachusetts is the First Congregational Church with its white spire. Bates’ father became a minister there in 1858 but died a year later, just four weeks after Katharine was born. One of her first memories is of how the women of Falmouth covered the church walls with their black shawls after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

<https://woodsholemuseum.org/oldpages/sprtsl/v23n2-KLBPlay.pdf>

<https://firstcongregationalfalmouth.org/our-mission-and-history>

• Buffalo slaughter

Hunting of the American bison, also commonly known as the American buffalo, was an activity fundamental to the economy and society of the Indian peoples who inhabited the vast grasslands on the Interior Plains of North America, before the animal's near-extinction in the late 19th century following United States' expansion into the West. Bison hunting was an important spiritual practice and source of material for these groups, especially after the European introduction of the horse in the 16th through 19th centuries enabled new hunting techniques. The species' dramatic decline was the result of habitat loss due to the expansion of ranching and farming in western North America, industrial-scale hunting practiced by settler hunters, increased Indigenous hunting pressure due to settler demand for bison hides and meat, and cases of a deliberate policy by settler governments to destroy the food source of the Indigenous peoples during times of conflict. Katharine Lee Bates wrote often of the injustice toward Native peoples that was part of Westward expansion in the US.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bison_hunting

• Child labor

Child labor in the U.S. was a common phenomenon across the economy in the 19th century. Outside agriculture, it gradually declined in the early 20th century, except in the South which added children in textile and other industries. Child labor remained common in the agricultural sector until compulsory school laws were enacted by the states. In the North, state laws prohibited work in mines and later in factories. A national law was passed in 1916 but it was overturned by the Supreme Court in 1918. A 1919 law was also overturned. In the 1920s an effort to pass a constitutional amendment failed, because of opposition from the South and from Catholics. Outside of farming child labor was steadily declining in the 20th century and the New Deal in 1938 finally ended child labor in factories and mines. Child labor has always been a factor in agriculture and that continues into the 21st century.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_labor_in_the_United_States

<https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2017/article/history-of-child-labor-in-the-united-states-part-1.htm>

• Founding Fathers

The Founding Fathers of the United States, often simply referred to as the Founding Fathers or the Founders, were a group of late-18th-century American revolutionary leaders who united the Thirteen Colonies, oversaw the War of Independence from Great Britain, established the United States of America, and crafted a framework of government for the new nation. The Founding Fathers include those who signed the United States Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the United States Constitution and other founding documents; it can also be applied to certain military personnel who fought in the American Revolution. Bates honors them and the ordinary people who fought for the revolution in AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Founding_Fathers_of_the_United_States

• “The Gilded Age”

In United States history, the Gilded Age is the period from about the late 1870s to the late 1890s, which occurred between the Reconstruction Era and the Progressive Era . It was named by 1920s historians after Mark Twain's 1873 novel *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today*. Historians saw late 19th-century economic expansion as a time of materialistic excesses marked by widespread political corruption .

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilded_Age

• Immigration

Immigration is the international movement of people to a destination country different from their birth or current habitation, in order to settle as permanent residents. Millions of immigrants came to the United States in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Bates was troubled by the exploitation of these people and helped start a settlement house in Boston to assist them.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration>

• Imperialism

Imperialism is the maintaining and extending of power over foreign nations, particularly through expansionism, employing both hard power (military and economic) and soft power (diplomatic and cultural imperialism). Imperialism focuses on establishing or maintaining hegemony. While related to the concept of colonialism, imperialism is a distinct concept applicable to other forms of expansion and forms of government. The McKinley era in the U.S. was one of imperialistic expansion, a policy that deeply troubled Bates, who criticizes it in AMERICAN THE BEAUTIFUL: “America, America, God mend thine every flaw. Confirm thy soul in self-control...”

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperialism>

• Industrial Workers of the World—the Wobblies

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), whose members are nicknamed “Wobblies,” is an international labor union founded in Chicago in 1905. The nickname’s origin is uncertain. Its ideology combines general unionism with industrial unionism, as it is a general union, subdivided between the various industries which employ its members. The philosophy and tactics of the IWW are described as “revolutionary industrial unionism,” with ties to socialist, syndicalist, and anarchist labor movements. The IWW led the Lawrence Textile Strike of 1912, discussed in the film FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_Workers_of_the_World

• Kaiser’s armies

The Imperial German Army was the military force of the German Empire under the control of Kaiser Wilhelm II, the overall commander of the Imperial German Army. Wilhelm II was the last German Emperor and King of Prussia from 1888 until his abdication in 1918, which marked the end of the German Empire as well as the Hohenzollern dynasty’s 300-year rule of Prussia. Bates and her fellow faculty at Wellesley feared that the Kaiser’s armies would destroy European civilization.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_German_Army

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_II

• League of Nations

The first worldwide intergovernmental organization whose principal mission was to maintain world peace, the League was founded on January 10, 1920 by the Paris Peace Conference that ended WWI. It ceased operations on April 18, 1946, when many of its components were relocated into the new United Nations (UN). As the template for modern global governance, the League profoundly shaped the modern world. Bates was a strong supporter of the League and was devastated when the US Senate refused to allow the U.S. to enter the League.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/League_of_Nations

• **Smallpox and its impact**

Smallpox was an infectious disease caused by a virus. The last naturally occurring case was diagnosed in October of 1977, and the World Health Organization (WHO) certified the global eradication of the disease in 1980, making smallpox the only human disease to have been eradicated to date. The initial symptoms of the disease included fever and vomiting. This was followed by formation of ulcers in the mouth and a skin rash. Over a number of days, the skin rash turned into the characteristic fluid-filled blisters with a dent in the center. The bumps then scabbed over and fell off, leaving scars. Vaccination against smallpox was effective as early as 1796 for the US military. Bates was forced to quarantine because of smallpox exposure in 1888.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smallpox>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_smallpox

• **Sweatshops**

A sweatshop is a crowded workplace with very poor or illegal working conditions, including few if any breaks, inadequate work space, insufficient lighting and ventilation, or uncomfortably or dangerously high or low temperatures. The work may be difficult, tiresome, dangerous, climatically challenging, or underpaid. Employees in sweatshops may work long hours with unfair wages, regardless of laws mandating overtime pay or a minimum wage; child labor laws may also be violated. Women make up 85 to 90% of sweatshop workers and may be forced by employers to take birth control and routine pregnancy tests to avoid supporting maternity leave or providing health benefits. While less common today, sweatshops were very prevalent during Bates' life. Her partner, Katharine Coman, documented the pain and deaths caused by them.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweatshop>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/sweatshop>

• **Tenement houses**

In the United States, the term tenement initially meant a large building with multiple small spaces to rent. As cities grew in the nineteenth century, there was increasing separation between rich and poor. With rapid urban growth and immigration, overcrowded houses with poor sanitation gave tenements a reputation as shanty towns. The expression "tenement house" was used to designate a building subdivided to provide cheap rental accommodation, which was initially a subdivision of a large house. Bates wrote about the horrible lives in the tenement houses in her novel, ROSE AND THORN.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenement>

<https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/tenements>

• **Transcontinental Railroad**

America's first transcontinental Railroad (known originally as the "Pacific Railroad" and later as the "Overland Route") was a 1,911-mile continuous railroad line built between 1863 and 1869 that connected the existing eastern U.S. rail network at Council Bluffs, Iowa, with the Pacific coast at the Oakland Long Wharf on San Francisco Bay. The rail line was built by three private companies over public lands provided by extensive U.S. land grants. Bates traveled by railroad from Boston to Colorado and back in 1893.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_transcontinental_railroad

• **Treatment of American Indians**

Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance in 1787, which was conceived to allow for the United States to sell lands inhabited by the Native nations to settlers willing to move into that area. Native American nations on the plains in the west engaged in armed defense of their lands with the United States throughout the 19th century, through what were called the “Indian Wars.” Often treaties signed with the tribes were broken by the United States. Katharine Lee Bates often wrote of the mistreatment of the Indians, which she first observed personally in her hometown of Falmouth, Massachusetts.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Native_Americans_in_the_United_States

<https://www.history.com/news/native-americans-genocide-united-states>

• **Yellow Clover**

In 1922, Bates published *YELLOW CLOVER: A Book of Remembrance*, a collection of poems she addressed to her partner Katharine Coman after Coman’s death. She dedicated the volume to Coman, and included as a “Prefatory Note” a three-page biography of Coman largely focused on her career as an economist and historian, but written in a tone personal enough to allow a reference to her “vigorous and adventurous personality” and her “undaunted courage” in continuing to work during her final illness. Bates was devastated by the death of Coman, her life partner from 1890 until 1915.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katharine_Lee_Bates

<https://allpoetry.com/Yellow-Clover>

• **Yellow Journalism**

In journalism, yellow journalism means the use of eye-catching headlines and sensationalized exaggerations for increased sales. The Hearst Empire employed yellow journalism tactics to win support for the Spanish American and Philippine American wars.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow_journalism

❖ SONGS IN THE FILM FROM BATES’ ERA ❖

Because many popular songs from Bates’s era are in the public domain, our composer, Michael Bade, arranged them to use as background in the film. We tried to use them in the eras when they were most popular or when they were written. Katharine Lee Bates re-wrote *AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL* several times in response to historical events and to improve the words.

• **America The Beautiful – full text of the song in 1893, 1904 and 1911 versions**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/America_the_Beautiful

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/spotlight-primary-source/america-beautiful-1893>

<https://www.hymnologyarchive.com/america-the-beautiful>

<https://www.nerdintheword.com/america-beautiful-youve-never-heard/>

- **After the Ball, 1891**

“After the Ball” was a popular song with music and lyrics by Charles K. Harris. In the song, an uncle tells his niece why he has never married. He saw his sweetheart kissing another man at a ball, and he refused to listen to her explanation. Many years later, after the woman had died, he discovered that the man was her brother.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/After_the_Ball_\(song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/After_the_Ball_(song))

- **Beautiful Dreamer, 1864**

“Beautiful Dreamer” is a romantic song by American songwriter Stephen Foster. It was published posthumously in March 1864. The song tells of a lover serenading a “Beautiful Dreamer” who is oblivious to worldly cares and may actually be dead.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beautiful_Dreamer

- **Columbia, Gem of the Ocean**

“Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean” (originally “Columbia, the Land of the Brave”) is a militaristic American patriotic song which was popular in the U.S. during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Composed in 1843, it was long used as an unofficial national anthem of the United States.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia,_the_Gem_of_the_Ocean

- **The Church in the Wildwood, 1857**

“The Church in the Wildwood” is a song that was written by Dr. William S. Pitts in 1857 following a coach ride that stopped in Bradford, Iowa. It is a song about a church in a valley near the town, though the church was not actually built until several years later. In the years since, the church has become known simply as “the Little Brown Church”.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Church_in_the_Wildwood

- **Drunken Sailor**

“Sailor” also known as “What Shall We Do with a/the Drunken Sailor?” or “Up She Rises,” is a traditional sea shanty. It was sung aboard sailing ships at least as early as the 1830s.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drunken_Sailor

- **Just Before the Battle, Mother**

“Just before the Battle, Mother” was a popular song during the American Civil War, particularly among troops in the Union Army . It was written and published by Chicago-based George F. Root. It was also a popular song with adherents of the Primrose League in England, and was a central part of Victoria Day celebrations in Canada during the late 19th and early-to-mid 20th centuries.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Just_Before_the_Battle,_Mother

- **Maple Leaf Rag, 1899**

The “Maple Leaf Rag” was a ragtime musical composition for piano composed by Scott Joplin. It was one of Joplin’s early works, becoming the model for ragtime compositions by subsequent composers. It is one of the most famous of all ragtime pieces. Its success led to Joplin being dubbed the “King of Ragtime” by his contemporaries. The piece gave Joplin a steady if unspectacular income for the rest of his life.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maple_Leaf_Rag

- **My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean**

Although the song’s origin is uncertain, its original subject could be Charles Edward Stuart (“Bonnie Prince Charlie”). After the defeat of the Prince at the Battle of Culloden in 1746 and his subsequent exile, his Jacobite supporters could have sung this song or one like it in his honor; and thanks to the ambiguity of the term “Bonnie,” which can refer to a woman as well as to a man, they could pretend it was a love song.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Bonnie_Lies_over_the_Ocean

- **My Country Tis of Thee**

“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”, also known as simply “America,” is an American patriotic song, the lyrics of which were written by Samuel Francis Smith. The song served as one of the de facto national anthems of the United States (along with songs like “Hail, Columbia”) before the adoption of “The Star-Spangled Banner” as the official U.S. national anthem in 1931. The melody used is adapted from the national anthem of the United Kingdom, “God Save the King”.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Country,_%27Tis_of_Thee

- **My Grandfather’s Clock, 1876**

“My Grandfather’s Clock” was written by Henry Clay Work, the author of “Marching Through Georgia.” It is a standard of British brass bands and colliery bands, and is also popular in bluegrass music. In 1905, the earliest known recording of this song was performed by Harry Macdonough and the Haydn Quartet (known then as the “Edison Quartet”). The song, told from a grandchild’s point of view, is about his grandfather’s clock. The clock is purchased on the morning of the grandfather’s birth and works perfectly for 90 years, requiring only that it be wound at the end of each week. After the grandfather dies, the clock suddenly stops, and never works again.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Grandfather%27s_Clock

- **Over There, 1917**

“Over There” was a war song written by George M. Cohan that was popular with the United States military and the American public during World War I and World War II. Written shortly after the American entry into World War I, “Over There” is a patriotic propaganda song intended to galvanize American men to enlist in the American Expeditionary Forces and fight the Central Powers. The song is best remembered for a line in its chorus: “The Yanks are coming.” In the film, we hear an excerpt from the great Italian tenor, Enrico Caruso.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Over_There

- **She'll be Coming 'Round the Mountain, 1892**

“She'll be Coming 'Round the Mountain” is a traditional folk song often sung for children. The song is derived from the Christian spiritual known as “When the Chariot Comes”. The first appearance of “She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain” in print was in Carl Sandburg’s “The American Songbag” in 1927. Sandburg reports that the Negro spiritual “When the Chariot Comes,” which was sung to the same melody, was adapted by railroad workers in the Midwestern United States during the 1890s.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/She%27ll_Be_Coming_%27Round_the_Mountain

- **The Caissons go Rolling Along, 1908**

“The Army Goes Rolling Along” is the official song of the United States Army and is typically called “The Army Song.” The original version of this song, written in 1908 by Edmund Gruber, was titled “The Caissons Go Rolling Along.” Those lyrics differ from the current official version. Gruber’s version was transformed into a march by John Philip Sousa in 1917 and renamed the “U.S. Field Artillery March.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Army_Goes_Rolling_Alone

- **Yankee Doodle**

“Yankee Doodle” is a traditional song and nursery rhyme, the early versions of which predate the Seven Years’ War and American Revolutionary War. It is often sung patriotically in the United States today. It is the state song of the state of Connecticut .

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yankee_Doodle



*** FILM TRANSCRIPT ***

Note: Both the DVD and academic streaming versions of From Sea to Shining Sea offer detailed scene selection options to make navigating the film much easier in a classroom setting.

On a rare day when smoke from distant wildfires obscures the summit of Pikes Peak, scores of arriving tourists are reminded that in 1893, the view from here inspired America's most popular song.

Tourists reading poem: America the Beautiful. Oh beautiful for spacious skies for amber waves of grain...

KATE UDALL AS BATES: When those words first came to me way up there on Pikes Peak, I never imagined that my little poem would eventually be known and loved by all Americans.

ELVIS: Oh beautiful for spacious skies...

JUDY COLLINS: for amber waves of grain...

WHITNEY HOUSTON: For purple mountain majesties...

JOHN DENVER: Above the fruited plain.

RAY CHARLES: America. America...

BARBRA STREISAND God shed his grace on thee...

JENNIFER LOPEZ: and crown thy good with brotherhood....

BLANE HOWARD : from sea to shining sea.

STEPHEN KINZER, HISTORIAN AND JOURNALIST: I love that song because it stirs my kind of patriotism. It should be our national anthem.

But, truth be told, most of my words aren't sung anymore and their message is all but forgotten.

So let me tell you the story behind my song.

ELLEN LEOPOLD, AUTHOR “A SOUL AMONG LIONS”: When I hear America the Beautiful today, I remind myself that it has all these verses that I don’t know about.

Whitman heard America singing. But I saw America suffering. Saw the factories where children were deprived of body and soul. Saw the immigrants, scorned and cheated by the sons of immigrants. Saw the women who could not even vote.

FALMOUTH CONGREGATION: Oh beautiful for spacious skies...

I wanted to see a different America, immersed in beauty, with liberty and justice for all, as it was meant to be.

CONGREGATION: from Sea to Shining Sea

I was born here on Cape Cod, by the shining sea. My father was a minister. But I never knew him. He died when I was four weeks old. Mother did every kind of work to feed us. My brothers chipped in with the fish they caught. So many neighbors helped too. When I was five. President Lincoln was shot. I’ll never forget my mother’s grief.

MELINDA PONDER, BATES BIOGRAPHER: And she wrote that she imagined the church bells ringing, too, so that even her father, who was buried in the graveyard, could hear them ringing to toll for Abraham Lincoln.

How I admired the men of my village who gave their lives for his cause—that slavery be abolished forever.

BLANE HOWARD: Oh beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife...

PONDER: These were men who had died in the Revolutionary War and then men who had died in the Civil War fighting for the Union.

From far beyond Nantucket, the whole world came to us.

PONDER: And I think this is what eventually made her what I would call a global citizen.

Most men in our town were sailors. Many never returned home alive. Hattie Gifford was my best friend. We played everywhere, even in the Old Burying Ground.

LEONARD MIELE, AUTHOR, VOICE OF THE TIDE: One day, Hattie and her mother were going to meet her father, a mariner who was out to sea...What they didn't know was that he had died coming home, and they placed the wooden coffin at their feet and said, this is your father.

With so much death around us, I wrote my own will.

GIRL'S VOICE: I, Katie Bates, do hereby bequeath all my worldly possessions to Hattie L Gifford, with the wish that she will give them to poor Indians.

Reading was my window to the outside world. I was shy and near-sighted, with my head mostly in a book. I wrote down every one I read. One day, a peddler came by and put some spectacles on my nose—and suddenly, I saw that the trees outside had leaves! Mother gave me this little book to write in. I had nothing important to say, but I said it anyway.

Girl's voice: Boys are necessary, but when they kiss the girls, write love notes, can't talk sense and hug girls, they are the greatest bores in existence.--Katie Bates

In 1871, Mother moved us to Wellesley, Massachusetts, only 20 miles from the big city of Boston. I wrote for my high school newspaper and the local daily. My school was right near the site where a new women's college was being built.

DR. PAULA JOHNSON, PRESIDENT OF WELLESLEY COLLEGE: They really founded this school as a powerful, educational institution that would educate women from different socioeconomic strata. ..And that founding principle has held true for 150 years.

I entered Wellesley College in 1876. Class of 1880. "Katie of 80" the other girls called me. We lived in College Hall, which was too fancy for my mother's tastes. Palm trees in the Atrium—in Massachusetts? Voted class president, I was popular but not happy.

PONDER: They had to come and eat in the dining room at a certain table. And then all day long they had, well, they had daily chapel she had to go to. So for her it was very rigid.

After vacation, I just wanted to keep reading books in my hammock forever! Books I chose! But I admired Mr. Durant, Wellesley's founder. He made sure nearly all our professors were women. And he brought beauty to every corner of the campus. At Lake Waban, I found a cure for my college blues.

BATES POEM, READ BY ANOTHER VOICE: Oh, the delight of nature! Where she leads...refresh your heavy lids while you behold how sunshine revels in the lowliest weeds...

I majored in English and Greek but my real love was verse...Chaucer...Shakespeare.

PONDER: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was her favorite poet, and he was a big influence in many ways in her life. And he had wanted Americans to see their own history in his poetry.

He invited our class to his home in Cambridge. When he told me he liked my poem, *Sleep*, I nearly wept for joy! I told a friend that if I could write a poem people remembered after I died, I'd consider my life worth living. My poems were mostly serious. But I loved humor too, writing of our class:

OTHER VOICE: This, O this is the Classical Class/
Who even at play on the green young grass/
Gossiped in Greek, or punned, alas!/
In Latin that might...or might not...pass...

I taught high school until I joined the Wellesley faculty in 1885. By then, my stories were being published. Though I needed money, I wrote mostly for the joy of it. Life brings blessings in disguise. In 1888, I was exposed to smallpox. Forced to quarantine, I wrote a novel for teens about a rich girl and a poor boy. *Rose* learns that *Thorn*, a crippled beggar, is her brother, abandoned in childhood. Her heart goes out to those like him. As mine did.

PONDER: she wanted to write a novel to foreground the problems in this country with the sweatshops and the women living in tenements who had such terrible working conditions.

READER'S VOICE, from *Rose and Thorn*: For them, there is no day...For them, there is no Sabbath...For them, there is no Easter. In that dreary tenement house, they are as the dead and buried.

Mark Twain called the era "The Gilded Age." The rich lived in luxury, while the poor, arriving by the millions, grew destitute. Fortunes rose from their work but they did not benefit. Railroads opened the west and the Indian treaties were broken, leaving them only slivers of land. Soldiers slaughtered the Indians' buffalos for sport.

LEAH WITHEROW, HISTORIAN: In later work, she describes in more detail... the shame of Indians, meaning the United States' abhorrent treatment of indigenous peoples on the continent.

OTHER VOICE: Our wigwams shall vanish from these, our lands/
Our paths be lost in the blowing sands.../
Our hearts are bitter and clamorous/
Red Sun, Red God, O comfort us!

My novel wasn't much. But I won a literary prize of \$700 for it, enough to travel to England the next summer. I'd study at Oxford and receive a Masters' degree for my efforts. My friend Annie Scoville and I left Brooklyn in May 1890. She brought two big cases filled with bottles of Ginger Ale! It took both of my brothers to get them on the ship! The seas were so rough, I arrived exhausted. After touring in Scotland and England, I spent months at Oxford, polishing my credentials in English literature. While I was there,

the trustees of Wellesley College decided to require that every professor pledge her Christian faith. That requirement had nothing to do with education. I refused to sign and thought I wouldn't return to Wellesley. I wasn't even sure I wanted to. I was always nervous about my teaching. When I was sick, I'd put a note on my classroom door: **(VISUAL)** But the trustees backed down. So I came back—to take over the English Department as a full professor. In England, men sought me out.

PONDER that was when her first suitor, Oscar Triggs, started courting her...

I even considered marriage. But in those days, if a Wellesley teacher wed, she lost her job.

MIELE: They had to sacrifice marriage to become scholars. That was one of the weaknesses of education at that time.

But Wellesley offered me a vibrant community of brilliant women.

WITHEROW: Can you imagine teaching at Wellesley in the 1890s? This educational endeavor must have been so exciting for women.

I'd always been quite conservative, but my colleagues had a great influence on me.

MIELE: The women there were representing all causes in the United States, whether it was the urban poor, helping immigrants, getting the vote for women.

WITHEROW: All of these issues were hotly contested, and I would argue that they still are being hotly contested today.

Vida Scudder, a Christian socialist, stood out among us. But we all shared her passion for women's emancipation. I grew closest to Katharine Coman, an economist and historian.

WITHEROW: Catherine Coman was brilliant. I think she was one of those people that burned fiercely. She was the social conscience of the pair.

In time, we became almost inseparable. My literature classes quickly attracted students who believed in Wellesley's creed: **(VISUAL)**

WITHEROW: There were comments from some of her former students describing how she lit a fire, a passion within them.

In 1892, my colleagues and I opened a settlement house for immigrant women in Boston.

PONDER: Katherine Coman was organizing these Italian women into a union to get better pay for their sewing. And the settlement house had classes for children.

But there were always more poor than we could care for. The next year, Katharine and I were invited to teach summer school in Colorado.

BLANE HOWARD: O Beautiful for pilgrims' feet...

WITHEROW: This epic train journey was something that many Americans were eager to take....She kept careful notes of the journey.

I'd never been West before.

BLANE HOWARD: across the wilderness

WITHEROW: And for Katharine Lee Bates, this not only provided her with additional income but also a vacation.

On the way, I stopped at Niagara Falls—O Beautiful America! I met Katharine in Chicago. She took me to the Columbian Exposition, with its famous “White City.”

SHANNON QUARTET, 1924: ...Thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears. America...

So many new things were introduced for the first time there. All promising a bright tomorrow. But only blocks away, another city presented itself, filled with suffering humanity.

OTHER VOICE: Beyond the circle of her glistening domes/ A bitter wind swept by to waste and wither/ A cry went up from hunger-smitten homes/But came not hither.

That year, America was in the grip of economic depression.

MIELE: Banks were closing. Coal, steel and railroad industries were striking. The haves and the have nots were fighting in the streets. Corporations were making money and the people were not.

O my beloved country—it was hard to see her in such pain! After Chicago, we sped across golden wheat fields to Colorado Springs at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. I had arrived in the West of my imagination! To teach Chaucer. Our fellow teachers at Colorado College were noted writers.

WITHEROW: It wasn't all work and no play for these amazing assemblage of professors at the Colorado College summer session in 1893. They went on a moonlit drive in the Garden of the Gods, which must have been terribly romantic. They went dancing in the Broadmoor casino.

And on July 22nd, I rode to the top of Pikes Peak! What a bouncing, bone-shaking ride it was! But the view from the top made it all worthwhile.

WITHEROW: On the summit, she pens a telegram that she sends to her mother, and she describes this is the most glorious scenery I've ever beheld.

And suddenly, words were filling my head, stirred by the great mountains to the west, and the plains so far below in the east. That night, I scribbled the first lines of poetry into my notebook...America is beautiful, yet in so many ways, we've made it ugly. We saw that ugliness down in Cripple Creek mining camp, where crazed men dug madly for gold.

WITHEROW: As miners pour into the district, money is being made, millionaires are being minted...Of course, the hillsides are being denuded, the mine activity is feverish and furious.

And I wrote: America, America, God shed thy grace on thee/Till selfish gain no longer stain the banner of the free...I would later soften those lines, but not my meaning.

HOWARD: America, America May God thy Gold refine...

If our country was materially rich, but without compassion, it would surely end up like every previous empire of history. That's what I thought. My poem, "AMERICA", was first published on July 4, 1895. I got five dollars for it. People immediately began to sing my words. By the time the official melody was published, there were at least 75 others floating around. So many people wrote asking me for rights to it. I gave it away.

PONDER: she felt that her poem was a gift to the nation. That was how she viewed it. So she of course, she didn't view it as something that was going to make her money. That would be against all of her values.

Those were happy times for me. But as the 19th Century grew to a close, my faith in America would be challenged as never before. Having taught myself Spanish, I was preparing to visit the International Institute for Girl in Spain. Just then, Assistant Navy Secretary Theodore Roosevelt urged that America

expand its territory—by seizing Spanish colonies, including Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.

KINZER: 1898 was the year when the United States changed so radically from a country that seemed satisfied within its own borders to a country that was always looking to influence others.

It was the very sin our Founding Fathers opposed when we were England's colony. In February 1898, an American battleship, the Maine, exploded and sank in Havana, Cuba. Immediately, and with no real evidence, our leaders blamed Spain.

KINZER: Americans went wild with the idea of saving Cuba from Spanish brutality.

The war cries grew insistent, led by Teddy Roosevelt.

KINZER: He never saw a war he didn't like. He had complete contempt for nonwhite people and thought the idea that a country like Cuba or the Philippines could govern itself was completely absurd.

In April, we declared war. In May, our Pacific fleet sank most of the Spanish navy in Manila Bay. Remembering the horrors of the Civil War, I wrote articles urging peace. Ours should be the flag of Right, not Might.

KINZER: I think Katherine Lee Bates represented a larger tradition. There was a belief that America had been put on this planet for a reason. That this was going to be a new nation that was going to be better than other countries. We were going to liberate nations, not oppress them ...

Mark Twain, Booker T Washington, Jane Addams, William Jennings Bryan, Andrew Carnegie, even former Presidents Cleveland and Harrison, joined the cause. But our pleas were for naught. On June 15th, Congress voted to seize Hawaii. Three days later, our Navy took Guam.

KINZER: This would be the first time in world history that a country that itself had once been a colony would take other colonies.

Regiments embarked for the Caribbean, with Roosevelt leading troops into battle. In July, we took Cuba, in August, the Philippines...

KINZER: Then even the president of the United States admitted he knew nothing about it. When he was asked, "Where is the Philippines?", he said, "Somewhere over there on the other side of the world."

About that time I left for Europe. Spending months in Paris before I could enter Spain, I found a defeated country there. Mothers were mourning the death of fathers, sons and brothers. I wrote articles for The New York Times, trying to win sympathy for Spain's people who never wished to be our enemies.

PONDER: She went over there, became a correspondent, got paid \$500 from the New York Times to write weekly letters back about what it was like on the ground after the conclusion of the Spanish-American War, after America had beaten Spain.

After Spain surrendered, Filipinos hoped for independence. How could we, with our ideals, refuse them? But we shot them instead. Peasants, armed only with sticks, were slaughtered by our soldiers. I expressed my dismay in verse.

OTHER VOICE: The flag that dreamed of delivering/
Shudders and droops like a broken wing/
Silvery rice fields whisper wide/
How for home and freedom/
their owners died...

Even Roosevelt, who was President by then, began to have doubts.

KINZER: Although he defended the Philippines war to the end, the revelations about the horrific tortures that were carried out there and the brutality of American occupation must have had an effect on him. He was proud of the fact that once he became president, he never ordered an intervention anywhere in which anyone was killed.

By 1904, I had revised America the Beautiful again, adding the words:

BLANE HOWARD: America, America, God mend thine every flaw. Confirm Thy soul in self-control...

I changed the chorus to include my deepest wish:

BLANE: And Crown Thy Good with Brotherhood, from Sea to Shining Sea...

If the first decade of the 1900s was bad for my America, it was good for my college. Under our new president, Caroline Hazard, Wellesley grew rapidly. But as more wealthy girls began going to college, they demanded extensive social activities. To ensure their tuition, academics were de-emphasized, and our faculty grew alarmed. In 1906, I spent the summer in England with Katharine, Fall in the Alps, and my sabbatical in the Middle East with president Hazard. We saw the pyramids of Egypt, the grandeur that was Luxor, evidence of fallen empires. I visited the Holy Land, walked on the shore of Galilee, and climbed the mount where Jesus gave his famous sermon, taking his words to heart:

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed the peacemakers...

How far our world had come from those teachings! When I returned, it was to a new and beautiful home that Katharine and I would share with my mother, my sister Jennie and our Collie, Sigurd.

KATIE SWENSON, AUTHOR, IN BOHEMIA: And the four women, all sort of independent single women, occupied this house. They were a center of intellectual life.

We called it the Scarab, for Egypt's beetle of rebirth and wisdom. It was close to the college, and the train station downtown.

SWENSON: She didn't own a car. She would have walked, and ridden a bike everywhere. So she was obviously physically fit.

In 1909, I heard Woodrow Wilson speak at Harvard, betting a friend five pounds of coffee that he would be our next President. I won the bet. But my life was about to take a terrible turn.

SWENSON: Katherine Coman found a quote "tiny lump" in 1911.

My beloved Katharine battled through cancer, never complaining, forever noble.

SWENSON: She continued to travel and kind of carry on with her life, remarkably.

Twice, she surrendered to the surgeon's knife. I could hardly imagine how much she suffered, always in pain.

LEOPOLD: And the surgery itself was quite dangerous at the time that Coman had it, because they didn't have all the kind of antiseptics that they have now.

Though her faith remained steadfast, her prayers for recovery went unanswered.

LEOPOLD Bates wrote about Coman that God spared her nothing, and it was clear that she suffered terribly. I mean, it's hard for us today to imagine how little could have been done to modify her pain.

1912 began with a bang.

JUDY COLLINS: As we come marching, marching...

Only forty miles from me, in Lawrence, hundreds of workers, many of them immigrant women, left their textile mills to strike for better wages and working hours.

JUDY COLLINS: Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew. Yes, it is bread we fight for but we fight for roses too...

People called it the Bread and Roses Strike. We all sympathized with those workers. How little they were asking for!

LAWENCE BUELL, LITERARY SCHOLAR: she was not an Emma Goldman. She was not. Carrie Nation, who took an ax to saloons. Vida Scudder was much more outspokenly radical.

Vida, my friend and colleague, left Wellesley to join the strikers on the picket lines. But wealthy donors, unsympathetic to the strikers, deserted Wellesley. And I agonized between my concern for the women of Lawrence and the survival of my college.

PONDER: she was a careful person...She had strong ideals, but she didn't want to rock the boat.

The Trustees demanded that I fire Vida. Though I disagreed with her methods, I admired her commitment. I was torn. What should I do? We compromised. Vida was allowed to continue teaching after apologizing for putting Wellesley at risk. The next year, I left for another European sabbatical. And returned to another tragedy. In March 1914, fire consumed College Hall and several other buildings. Many faculty lost everything. Immediately we started to rebuild. But by August, the world itself was in flames. By the thousands, young men perished in Europe's bloody fields. In my sorrow, I turned again to poetry.

OTHER VOICE: How long Shall folk of the burned villages in starving, staggering throng/Flee from the armies that, in turn/ are mangled, maddened, slain/Till earth is all one stain/Of horror?

BUELL: It's an eloquent message, and it's extremely well delivered. It's delivered in poetry that is remarkably modern.

At first, America kept out of the war. But tragedy did not spare me. In 1915, my beloved Katharine died of cancer. She was only 57. Loneliness seized me like a cold wind from the far North. I didn't have her courage, or her deep faith in an afterlife. I consoled myself by writing poems, honoring the partner who brought me so much joy

ENRICO CARUSO: The boys are coming, the boys are coming...

In 1917, my country entered the Great War. The war to end all wars, as optimists called it. How horrible it all was, the destruction, the endless hemorrhaging of young blood. But despite many misgivings, most of our faculty stood behind President Wilson. We feared that the Kaiser's armies might destroy European civilization. The war finally ended on November 11, 1918.

PONDER: And when the Yankee division of soldiers from New England heard that the armistice had been signed, suddenly the shelling stopped, the fighting stopped. And on a hillside in Verdun, thousands of these soldiers stood up and sang America the Beautiful.

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I was told they were weeping. How deeply that touched me! Soon, I had a new cause. President Wilson proposed a League of Nations to settle disagreements peacefully and put an end to war. I gave my heart to it. But the **US** refused to join, dooming the League to failure. There was good news, though. In 1920, our dream of votes for women came true. What a glorious day! Surely we women would move the world toward peace, justice and love. The poems I wrote for my beloved Katharine were published two years later.

Another reader: from Yellow Clover, "By seven springs has your far grave been passed...Have I not sometimes felt your presence nigh?...I give you joy, my dearest, Death is done. "

I would wait another seven springs to join her. But I was slowing down. In 1925, as Wellesley turned 50, I retired after 40 years of teaching there. Three years later, a great crowd filled Boston's Mechanics Hall to hear my final speech. I told them they should think of the whole world as one community "from sea to shining sea." One fine spring day in 1929, I took my last ride around the campus. I imagined it as it was, with College Hall still there. All my lovely memories came back. I had lived a blessed life!

Now, here in my hometown, I rest beneath the sod. But my song is not buried with me.

New generations have made it their own, maintaining my hope--that America might acknowledge its flaws, and honor its most beautiful ideals.

CREDITS: *Long and Schmidt singing "American Hymn": America, America, God shed her grace on thee. Sisterhood, brotherhood, today I do believe.*



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