





FROM THE PRESIDENT

BCWRT Elections

At the October BCWRT Meeting individual nominations were received for the offices of Secretary, Assistant Treasurer. Treasurer/Secretary and each of the three positions on the Board of Directors. There were no nominations for the Offices of President and Vice-President.

The following, being unopposed, are elected to their offices by acclamation.

Treasurer – Ray Atkins Secretary – Steve Wiseman Asst. Sec./Treas. – Don Macreadie Board of Directors (3) – Robert Ford Lee Hodges Robert Toelle

After 50-plus years, Gettysburg's Soldier's National Museum is a goner

By Chris Kaltenbach, The Baltimore Sun, November 2, 2014

Thousands of soldiers have been massing inside a building in this historic town for decades. But after Sunday, no more.

The Soldier's National Museum and its regiments of toy soldiers, housed in a building that predates the Civil War and has been a museum of one sort or another since the 1950s, is shutting its doors for good Sunday afternoon — the victim, its owner says, of a culture that demands a

more dynamic, interactive, hands-on experience for its museum dollar.

"You have to stay relevant, and that's difficult with all the changing technology and expectations," says Max T. Felty, who bought the museum in 2011. "That's where you have to keep making changes and look at different ways of doing things."

For Felty, closing the museum and selling off its contents — they'll be going under the auctioneer's gavel Nov. 21-22, across the street at the 1863 Inn of Gettysburg — is strictly a business decision. He's aware many people have emotional ties to the museum that go back decades, to the years when it was owned by entertainer Cliff Arquette (better known by his stage name, Charley Weaver) and housed Civil War figurines Arguette had carved himself. In fact, Felty has his own personal connection to the museum - his father, Ronald L. Felty, who died in 2009, had bought into its ownership group in the 1980s.

But the Soldier's Museum's days are past, Felty is convinced. And the building itself, which dates to the mid-1800s and once served as an orphanage for children left fatherless by the war, will remain. In fact, he plans to restore the facade so that it more closely resembles what it would have looked like when the Battle of Gettysburg raged for three days at the beginning of July 1863. Beyond that, the building's future is undecided, he says.

"There's definitely a legacy here," says Felty, who as president of Gettysburg Tours Inc. also owns and operates the adjacent Hall of Presidents & First Ladies and the nearby Jennie Wade House, famous as the home of the only Gettysburg civilian killed during the battle. "I

certainly want to do right by the town and the history of the town. But at the end of the day, you have to make a business decision. And this is a business decision."

The Jennie Wade House and the Hall of Presidents are safe for now, as is the tour bus company he also runs, Felty says. They are still attracting plenty of visitors, he says, something the Soldier's Museum hasn't done for years.

Many small museums, which don't have the government or corporate financial support enjoyed by the larger nonprofits, are struggling to keep up with the changing demands of their visitors. And while a museum closing is relatively rare, many operators are taking a hard look at what they do and seeing if adaptations are in order.

"There's no question that interactive exhibits are a mainstay today," says Ford Bell, president of the 4,000-member American Alliance of Museums. "Technological wizardry brings a lot to the experience."

The most successful history museums, Bell says, are those with an authentic connection to the events they represent. "Kids are very engaged with authentic objects; they know they tell a very important story," he says.

While the Soldier's Museum is housed in a building that served as a Union general's headquarters during the battle, many of the artifacts inside have nothing to do with the Civil War and don't date from the period.

Certainly, other Gettysburg museums tell similar stories. But the Jennie Wade House has the holes in the doors through which the deadly bullet passed. The David Wills House, off Gettysburg's town square, has the room where Abraham Lincoln slept the night before giving the Gettysburg







Address. The Gettysburg battlefield itself has history everywhere one looks.

A revamped and enlarged \$103 million National Park Service Visitors Center, which opened in 2008 and attracts between 1 million and 1.2 million visitors annually, offers movies, interactive exhibits and plenty of other high-tech bells and whistles. And the nonprofit Gettysburg Seminary Ridge Museum, which opened in July 2013, has both state-of-the-art displays and the advantages that come with being the new kid on the tourist block.

By contrast, the Soldier's Museum displays decades-old Civil War dioramas, hundreds of battle artifacts dating back to Viking days (some are reproductions, although they're often not clearly labeled as such) and thousands of toy soldiers, all safely out of reach behind glass. The museum hasn't changed substantially since Felty bought it — or even in the three decades before that.

Visiting the museum is a decidedly old-school experience that fewer and fewer people have been taking advantage of. While attendance 2013, spiked in during sesquicentennial celebration of the Battle of Gettysburg, it's otherwise been on the decline for several years. Manager Rose Little, who's been taking care of the museum and its contents for about eight years, says attendance might climb to 120 or so on a Friday or Saturday. On other days, she says, she's lucky if 50 visitors show up.

But that doesn't make its closing any easier to take, she says.

"This, to me, is home," says Little, 75, who grew up in nearby Hanover. "We've been getting a lot of visitors since the closing was announced, and most people are telling me it's really a shame, because it's really a

nice museum. And I say, 'Where were you when I wanted you?' "

The museum sits at 777 Baltimore St., just across from and slightly south of the Jennie Wade House. Its 2,500 square feet of exhibit space is squeezed into two floors; most of the artifacts are housed behind glass panels, with explanatory text printed on white cards. There's also a recreation of a Confederate campsite squeezed into the building's east end; a small alcove with displays about the building's history; and a handful of dioramas depicting significant battles of the war.



Soldier's National Museum – photo courtesy Gettysburg.org

In a nod to the building's days as an orphanage, one of the odder exhibits is a hole in the floor where one can peer down and see a manneguin, looking like a desperately unhappy child, peering back up from what looks like a dungeon. (Little wonder the building is a prominent stop on the popular Gettysburg Ghost Tours.) Occasionally, there's a button to push for a recorded explanation of what one is looking at, but that's about as high-tech as the museum gets. And save for what's on sale in the gift shop, everything is strictly hands-off. For the past several weeks, ever since the closing was announced at the beginning of October, a steady stream of old friends - many of whom haven't set foot inside the museum in years — have been

stopping by. Some are angry, Little says, but most seem resigned to the museum's fate. It's not easy letting go of something that's been around for more than half a century.

"We wanted to come and see the Soldier's Museum one last time before it leaves," says Harold Gentzler, 58, of York, Pa., who stopped by on a recent Friday to say his goodbyes. "Yeah, it's disappointing. But I guess as they say, [attendance] has been decreasing over the years, and you just can't keep something open that isn't doing what it needs to do."

His partner of 24 years, Karen Librandi, 64, has been coming here since she was a little girl; she guesses she's paid her admission and wandered through the exhibits about a dozen times. Librandi likes the pace the museum encourages, likes to take her time and quietly soak in what's on display. But she suspects that that approach is a little antiquated these days.

"I think people are looking for things that more jump out and grab you," she says. "Our children are too busy with things on computers and the Internet. Things like this don't grab their attention."

Gentzler says he might stop by the auction, maybe see about picking up a piece or two to help him remember the old place. But not Librandi. "I don't want to see that," she says quietly.

Like most visitors, the couple take a few minutes to look at a special exhibit just beyond the doorway leading in from the gift shop. On a shelf are about three dozen carved figures from the days when this building housed what was known as Charley Weaver's Museum, a showcase for the carved figures Arquette painstakingly crafted.







Arquette, who died in 1974, was a well-known comic in his day. His Charley Weaver character, a down-home country type who delighted in telling tales of his hometown of Mount Idy and reading his "Letters from Mamma," was a staple on talk and variety shows throughout the '60s and early '70s. He was a regular on the original "Hollywood Squares."

Arquette also helped establish a Hollywood dynasty. His grandchildren include actors Alexis, David, Patricia, Rosanna and Richmond Arquette.

"I do remember the museum," Rosanna Arquette writes in an email. "I know that my grandfather believed that he was the reincarnation of a Confederate soldier, but his politics in this lifetime were vastly different from that time. ... He was very obsessed with his paintings and drawings. It was as if he needed to remember.

"I remember going there once and taking a picture with my grandfather." And like many who enjoyed her grandfather's work, Arquette's reaction to the news of the Soldier's Museum's demise is simple and heartfelt.

"It's sad that they are closing it," she says

When Hatred of Immigrants Stopped the Washington Monument from Being Built

By Patrick Young, longislandwins.com

In the darkness of the early morning hours of March 5, 1854, a group of men on a mission to save America broke into a shed at the base of the Washington Monument. The monument was only one-third finished and the shed contained stones sent from countries around the world to be used in its completion.

The secret cell looked for one stone among the many. It was marked "Rome to America".

The team tied a rope around the block of marble and dragged it out. What happened after this is subject to rumor and conjecture, but the theft led to a near-permanent halt in the building of the monument.

The stone had been sent as a gift to America from Pope Pius IX. It was of black marble, three feet long and a foot and a half high from the Temple of Concord in the Roman Forum.

More than a year before the stone ever arrived in the United States it had been the focus of anti-immigrant hatred. Protestant minister John F. Weishampel published a pamphlet attacking the stone entitled Rome to America: the Pope's Stratagem! An address to the Protestants of the United States against placing the Pope's block of marble in the Washington Monument. Antiimmigrant activists warned that Irish and German Catholic immigration threatened to swamp native (white) American culture and that immigration was part of a larger plot by the Pope to take over the United States. The placement of the Stone would Pope's signal to immigrants that the day of their triumph had come at last, possibly leading to a violent Catholic uprising.

The secret cell that stole the Pope's Stone was part of an anti-immigrant mass movement called the Know Nothinas. The men either overpowered the armed watchman guarding the marble block, perhaps the watcher was a Know Nothing himself. The team may have thrown the stone into the Potomac River or broken it up into tiny pieces as souvenirs of their blow against Catholic immigration. Certainly at least one Know Nothing claimed

decades later to have a sliver of the stone.



The Washington Monument during the period when work was suspended. Mark Twain wrote in 1868 that it was an "ungainly old chimney that...is of no earthly use to anybody else, and certainly is not in the least ornamental. It is just the general size and shape, and possesses about the dignity, of a sugar-mill chimney... It is an eyesore to the people. It ought to be either pulled down or built up and finished." - San Francisco Alta California, February 14,

Not content to have destroyed the stone, the Know Nothings held a fraudulent election and took control of the society building the monument either to "Americanize" it or to get their hands on the considerable donations it received. Appalled at both the act of terrorism and the financial chicanery, Congress halted support for the building of the obelisk and it fell into disrepair.

Work on the Washington Monument would not resume until 1878. When it was restarted, new rock had to be







ordered. To this day you can still see the effects of anti-immigrant rage. The color of the stones above the 150 foot mark where work stopped in 1855 is slightly different from that used after 1878.

The Know Nothings' scar on the Washington Monument is permanent, but the anti-immigrant movement's scar on mid-19th Century immigrants lasted for generations as well.

Who Burned Atlanta?

By **PHIL LEIGH**, New York Times, NOVEMBER 13, 2014

At 7 a.m. on Nov. 16, 1864, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman accompanied the last corps of his Union army as it left Atlanta to begin virtually а uncontested "March to the Sea," which would end in Savannah five weeks later. Three miles outside the city, he stopped for a final look back. "Behind us lay Atlanta smoldering and in ruins, the black smoke rising high in the air and hanging like a pall over the ruined city," he recalled. Presently a nearby infantry band struck up John Brown's anthem. "Never ... have I heard the chorus of 'Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!' done with more spirit." The men were proud of what they had done.

A little over six months earlier, Sherman and his men had started a campaign that culminated in the capture of Atlanta on Sept. 2, a victory that probably clinched President Abraham Lincoln's reelection. But their most recent accomplishments were destruction and civilian depopulation of Atlanta and other North Georgia towns. Under Sherman's orders, by the end of September nearly all of Atlanta's residents had been forcibly removed, although most had no place to go.

Estimates of the physical damage Sherman left behind varied. Capt. Orlando Poe, ordered to supervise a limited destruction, estimated that 37 percent of the city was demolished. An Indiana soldier's diary entry simply stated, "We have utterly destroyed Atlanta." After Sherman left. Georgia's governor sent a militia officer named William Howard to prepare an assessment. Howard four days systematically spent mapping every house left standing; within a half-mile radius of the city center, only 400 homes remained, of 3.600.

None of this will be news to anyone who has watched, or read, "Gone With the Wind." And yet that film has long helped promote a misconception about what, exactly, happened in Atlanta that fall.

The spectacular burning scene in "Gone With the Wind" mistakenly portrays the principal inferno as happening when the Confederates left the city on Sept. 1. It's true that the rebels demolished parts of the city as they left; once Sherman gained control of all the railroads leading out of Atlanta, Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood had no choice but to try to save his army and evacuate with as many supplies as possible, and destroy what he had to leave behind. Most notable among the items marked for destruction was a reserve supply train consisting of five engines and 81 boxcars, which was idling on double tracks near the town's eastern edge. Twenty-eight of those cars held munitions. When the train was torched, it created what was likely the largest explosion of the Civil War. Every building for a guarter mile around was damaged or destroyed, including the Atlanta Rolling Mill, railroad roundhouse, arsenal shops and a cannon factory. Nonetheless,

outside the border surrounding the train, the Confederate evacuation caused fairly little damage.

The real story of the destruction of Atlanta is more complex. During the preceding siege, from July 20 to Aug. 31, parts of Atlanta were wrecked by fighting. Long trenches were dug by the opposing armies. Buildings were destroyed to provide clear fields of fire and for materials to build fortifications. Then there was Sherman's indiscriminant five-week bombardment of the city, which started July 20. The day after the shelling began Sherman wired the Union's chief of staff, Henry W. Halleck, in Washington, "The city seems to have a line around it at an average distance to the center of town of about one-and-a-half miles, but our shot passing over this line will destroy the town."

The general was aware that women and children would be among the victims. On the third day of the chief protracted fusillade his telegrapher wired Washington: "As I write our heavy artillery is at work, and large fires are burning in Atlanta." The same day a New York artillerist wrote his wife there were a "great many women and children" who had taken refuge in the city from the surrounding During area. cannonade, extended Sherman's artillery fired more than 100,000 projectiles. Civilian casualties are estimated at a couple of dozen killed and scores more wounded.

Still, when Sherman occupied the city in September, it was largely intact. It was only with his departure, two months later that the real burning began.

To be clear, the wholesale destruction of Atlanta was not Sherman's intention. He had officers draw up a plan to destroy military







targets, which included a detailed map marking the structures. No private residences were among them. Captain Poe was selected to execute the plan because it was thought his engineers would be less reliant upon explosives and fire. Still, there was little doubt about the plan's consequences: Six days earlier, when Poe first heard of the plan, he wrote his superior engineering officer in Washington that by the time his letter arrived, "Atlanta will have ceased to exist."

The real cause of the subsequent mass destruction was Sherman's acquiescence to widespread disobedience among his soldiers. Ever since he had been post commander in Memphis, two years earlier, Sherman had advocated a brutal approach to Confederates, both military and civilian. Since he presumed that local guerrillas were responsible for taking pot shots at Mississippi River boats, he ordered that 10 citizens be forcibly removed from the city for every incident along the river. When such an instance occurred in Randolph, Tenn., he destroyed the town, leaving only a single structure standing. Sherman's attitude quickly filtered down through the ranks, so that by the time they left Atlanta, no orders were necessary; Sherman's troops simply did what they had been told to do, so many times before.

Atlanta wasn't the first North Georgia city to be razed that fall. A few days before the march began, Union troops burned Cassville, about 50 miles north of Atlanta. Five days later the manufacturing town of Rome was razed. The following day Sherman wired Maj. Gen. George Thomas in Nashville, "Last night we burned Rome and in two or more days will burn Atlanta." The next target was the

railroad connecting Atlanta to Chattanooga, which had been Sherman's supply line since early September. The general decided to destroy miles of the line after the last train left Atlanta for the North on Nov. 12. The next day the rail town of Marietta was wrecked.

A new, politically appointed and youthful major named Henry Hitchcock joined Sherman at Marietta. Once shops and homes were caught up in the blaze Hitchcock commented to Sherman: "The town will] burn down, sir."

"Yes," Sherman said. "Can't be stopped."

"Was that your intention?"

The general answered indirectly. "Can't save it ... There are men who do this," pointing to a group of passing soldiers. "Set as many guards as you please, they will slip in and set fire."

For several days prior to the Nov. 15 March to the Sea departure, the elements of Sherman's army north of Atlanta converged on the destroying railroad tracks and communities as they approached. By the time they got to the city, demolition had become habitual. Gen. Henry W. Slocum, whose XX Corps occupied Atlanta after its capture. tried to protect private residences. But the provost guards, who could be relied on to carry out such orders, were concentrated downtown.

The first unauthorized fires started on Nov. 11 near the edge of town. The next morning Slocum offered a \$500 reward for the capture of the arsonists, but it was never collected. By Nov. 13, when an Illinois unit marched into Atlanta, a captain in the unit wrote in his diary, "The smoke almost blinded us." By Nov. 15, the city was on fire everywhere. By 3 p.m., officers who were distributing

supplies at the commissary invited soldiers to simply take whatever they needed, because the out-of-control fires would inevitably consume the facility.

One Michigan sergeant conceded getting swept up in the inflammatory madness, even though he knew it was unauthorized: "As I was about to fire one place a little girl about ten years old came to me and said, 'Mr. Soldier you would not burn our house would you? If you did where would we live?' She looked at me with such a pleading look that ... I dropped the torch and walked away."

Starting with Sherman himself, many later justified the burning as military necessity. During the night of 15th, as the fire was in progress, Major Hitchcock overheard Sherman say deserved that Atlanta to demolished because of its manufacturing capacity for military articles. The same night an Indiana sergeant wrote in his diary, "The entire city was destroyed [but] for a few occupied houses. It reminds me of the destruction of Babylon ... because of the wickedness of her people."

Others falsely minimized the damage. In his memoirs, Sherman speciously claimed "the fire did not reach ... the great mass of dwelling houses." But in a congratulatory order to his troops after arriving in Savannah, he wrote, "We quietly and deliberately destroyed Atlanta."

Still others accepted the reality of unauthorized burning, but incorrectly claimed it was accidental, or attributed it to impersonal factors. The wind did it. Too many soldiers discovered hidden liquor caches. The fiery march through communities north of Atlanta gave soldiers the impression that the city was to get the same treatment.







Perhaps the most widely accepted justification was the inherent cruelty of war. When a society accepts war as intrinsically cruel, those involved in wartime cruelties are exonerated. Again, Sherman previously set the tone when he responded to the Atlanta City Council's petition that he rescind his September order requiring nearly all civilians to evacuate:

[I] shall not revoke my orders because they were not designed for the humanities of the case ... War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it ... Now you must go and take with you the old and feeble ... and build for them ... proper habitations to shield them against the [approaching winter] weather.

But not all Union soldiers were satisfied with excuses. A Wisconsin private wrote, "I believe this destruction of private property in Atlanta was entirely unnecessary and therefore ... disgraceful. ... The cruelties practiced on this campaign toward citizens have been enough to blast a more sacred cause than ours. ... There certainly is a lack of discipline."

Partly because most of the source documents about Sherman's Atlanta burning are the official records of the federal armies. letters and diaries of Union soldiers, and reports in Northern publications, the story is often distorted. Since no Confederate units were present, and only a few sporadically nearby, there were few Confederate reports during November 1864 inferno. Instead, historians must look to other primary Southern sources. such as Georgia newspapers. state documents, and civilian memoirs, diaries and letters. Their words tell a than different version the corresponding remarks of Union soldiers and newspapers.

Eventually, Sherman's soldiers had little wish to write about the events of the first half of November 1864, because there was little to inspire pride. Sherman wrote almost nothing about Atlanta's Nov. 15-16 blaze in his memoirs (beyond claiming that "the great majority of dwellings" were spared).

While Sherman never ordered the wholesale burning of Atlanta, he did little to stop many of his increasingly undisciplined soldiers from escalating targeted destruction into arson and rioting. It is difficult to avoid concluding that he arranged matters so that he could deny responsibility if Atlanta's destruction became morally condemned, but accept credit if it was celebrated.

Lincoln's Germans and the Election of 1864

By Patrick Young, longislandwins.com

When Abraham Lincoln sought reelection as president, he had to contend not only with the opposition of the Democratic Party, but also with opponents among the Republicans. Radical Republicans had sought to replace Lincoln as the Republican standard bearer from the very start of the Election Year of 1864.

Among the most virulent of Lincoln's critics from the party's left were a group of Missouri Radicals called the "Charcoals" because they were the "blackest of the Black Republicans," that is, they were the most committed to equality for blacks. Concentrated in Missouri, the Charcoals included many German immigrants who had been forced out of Germany because of their own liberalism.

To combat the defection of Germans from Lincoln, three immigrants were to play a key role in the Election of 1864. The first was John Nicolay.

White Lincoln's senior House secretary. Nicolay had emigrated from Germany in his youth and had loyally served Lincoln since the 1860 presidential campaign. Second was Francis Lieber, a Columbia University professor who had taught in South Carolina when he first arrived in the U.S. from Germany, but who had come to New York to escape the oppressiveness of living in a slave society. Lieber had become a legal advisor to Lincoln and had helped found the Loyal Publication Society which issued pamphlets in support of the Union war effort and the ending of slavery. The third important German in this trio was Major General Carl Schurz.

A hero of German revolutionaries from the days of the failed uprising of 1848, Schurz had become a link between the Republican Party and the pro-abolitionist German immigrant community. A confirmed Radical Republican, Schurz had also been close to Lincoln even before the president had been elected to national office.

Carl Schurz was sympathetic to the Radical critique of Lincoln. Like others on the Left of the Republican Party, Schurz had favored immediate and universal emancipation of slaves from the start of the war. Just a month before Lincoln's January 1, 1863 Emancipation Proclamation, Schurz had written a scathing letter to Lincoln blaming the Republicans' woes on the president's apparent timidity on slavery.

Of the growing Charcoal German critique of Lincoln's racial policies, Schurz wrote "the criticism of the government — legitimate in itself if it were designed only to enlighten the administration and to lead to a correction of its errors — had assumed a virulent temper, and been







turned into attempts to prevent the renomination of Mr. Lincoln." The Charcoals and other Radicals would not have been dangerous if they had political intriguers merely been seeking personal gain, but Schurz said that they were anything but selfservers. "The most alarming feature of this commotion," he wrote, "was that many men were active in it patriotism whose was above question."

The Charcoals failed to prevent the re-nomination of Lincoln at the Republican Union Party Convention, but the party's left continued to press Lincoln to step aside and let a stronger candidate run. Schurz saw the disunion in the Union Party as danger to winning the war and freeing the slaves and he offered to take leave of his military duties to "stump" for Lincoln. In July of 1864 Schurz met with Lincoln in Washington to strategize. There he found a president beset by those within his own party. According to Schurz, Lincoln told him;

They urge me with almost violent language...to withdraw from the contest, although I have been unanimously nominated, in order to make room for a better man. I wish I could. Perhaps some better man is not here. And if I should step aside to make room for him, it is not at all sure — perhaps not even probable that he would get here. It is much more likely that the factions opposed to me would fall to fighting among themselves, and that those who want me to make room for a better man would get a man whom most of them would not want in at all. My withdrawal, therefore, might, and probably would, bring on a confusion worse confounded. God knows, I have at least tried very hard to do my duty — to do right to everybody and

wrong to nobody. And now to have it said by men who have been my friends and who ought to know me better, that I have been seduced by what they call the lust of power, and that I have been doing this and that unscrupulous thing hurtful to the common cause, only to keep myself in office! Have they thought of that common cause when trying to break me down? I hope they have...



Carl Schurz - Library of Congress photo

Schurz took to the campaign trail to lend his considerable influence among the Germans to Lincoln's election. When he did, he too came under criticism for selling out the Radical cause. He wrote explanatory letter to an old German mentor of his who questioned whether Schurz should support Lincoln's seemingly failed presidency. Schurz wrote back to his friend that "there can be no doubt that the Government has made great mistakes." He shared his friends concern that many of Lincoln's aides and advisors were common politicians, admitting that "persons who are directing the fate of the country are certainly far from ideal statesmen, though not nearly as insignificant as their critics would represent them to be." While the government's leaders might not be perfect, he wrote his friend, "The most vital thing is that the policy of the party moves in the right direction, that is to say, that the slaveholder be vanquished and slavery abolished." Lincoln, he said, was the only man running for president who could quarantee that outcome.

Schurz also wrote to his friend that many of the university-educated German leaders were misjudging Lincoln. "You are underrating the President," he said. Schurz wrote of the president:

I grant that he lacks higher education and his manners are not in accord with European conceptions of the dignity of a chief magistrate. He...is not skilled in polite phrases and poses. But he is a man of profound feeling, correct and firm principles incorruptible honesty. motives are unquestionable, and he possesses to a remarkable degree the characteristic, God-given trait of this people, sound common-sense. Should you read his official documents and his political letters, you would find this verified to a surprising extent.

"I know him from personal observation as well as anyone," Schurz assured his mentor.