



We the People

EPISODE FIVE: GENERAL WELFARE

DID YOU KNOW?

- Esther Deberdt Reed named her youngest son George Washington Reed after the General with whom her husband served. The boy grew up to join the Navy and died as a prisoner of war in Jamaica.
- Esther Deberdt Reed's husband, Joseph, was a delegate to the Continental Congress and signed the Articles of Confederation, the precursor to the Constitution.
- Esther Deberdt Reed and husband, Joseph, are buried in the Arch Street Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Sarah Franklin Bache, who took up the cause of completing the shirts for the Continental soldiers, is buried at Christ Church Burial Ground, also in Philadelphia. Her famous brother, Benjamin Franklin, is buried nearby.
- Maggie Knight was inspired to create a safer loom after spending time at the Amoskeag Mills in Manchester, New Hampshire. After becoming the largest cotton textile plant in the world, the mill declined and eventually closed its doors on Christmas Eve in 1935.
- A man named Charles Annan stole Maggie Knight's idea for the paper bag folding machine and tried to pass it off as his own, stating that a woman could not have invented such a machine. Fortunately, Knight was able to prove her case with journal entries and models and was awarded the patent for her invention.
- Maggie Knight's original paper bag folding machine is located at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.
- Although Maggie Knight is sometimes credited as the first female patent holder, that honor belongs to Mary Kies, who invented a weaving process.
- Some of the ingredients of Madam Walker's hair grower included coconut oil, petrolatum, beeswax, and copper sulfate.
- Madam Walker gave to many charitable causes including the NAACP, churches, cultural centers, homes for the aged, orphans' homes, schools and colleges, and the first YMCA for African-American men.

- A New York Times magazine article, which touted Madam Walker's wealth as "a cool million, or nearly that," brought attention to Walker's achievement as America's first female self-made millionaire.
- Milton Wright's father, Dan Wright, fought in the American Revolution and also had many strong convictions, including his opposition to slavery.
- The home which served as a backdrop for the living history presentation of Katherine Wright, portrayed in the film by Betty Darst, is a replica of the Wright family's home originally located at 7 Hawthorn Street in Dayton.
- Wilbur and Orville Wright were both named for clergymen that their father, Milton, admired.
- Milton and Susan Wright had seven children including twins Ida and Otis, who died shortly after birth.
- Baldemar Velasquez was the first member of his family to graduate from college with a degree in Sociology from Bluffton College.
- Baldemar Velasquez has received numerous honors for his humanitarian efforts including a Development of People Award by the Campaign for Human Development of the U.S. Catholic Conference, the Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award, the Aguila Azteca Award from the Government of Mexico, and two honorary doctorates.
- Baldemar Velasquez is an avid singer and musician who plays the guitar, harmonica and banjo.
- Baldemar Velasquez became an ordained chaplain in 1991 in order to minister to farm workers.