



From the very start of our Greenville Chautauqua Festival, we have striven to address the important humanities issues in our past that have remained important to us today. We have shared the views of a wide variety of significant figures from throughout our history. Their voices remind us of the ideas that have shaped our shared culture and give us a perspective on our past that can, hopefully, result in a clearer vision for our future. Here is a quick reminder of the history of our festival.

1999 American Humorists

Mark Twain, Will Rogers, Langston Hughes,
James Thurber, Dorothy Parker

2000 Southern Writers

Zora Neale Hurston, Katherine Anne Porter,
Mark Twain, William Faulkner, Thomas Wolfe

2001 American Renaissance

Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville,
Louisa May Alcott, Walt Whitman, Frederick
Douglass, Henry David Thoreau

2002 Conceived in Liberty

Thomas Jefferson, Elizabeth Freeman,
Alexander Hamilton, Henry Laurens,
John and Abigail Adams

2003 American Autobiography

Benjamin Franklin, Henry Adams, Andrew
Carnegie, Pauli Murray, Mark Twain,
Eleanor Roosevelt

2004 American Visions

Martin Luther King, Jr, Eugene V. Debs, Elizabeth
Cady Stanton, Thomas Paine, John Winthrop,
{Winter: Pauli Murray}

2005 The Civil War

Ambrose Bierce, Mary Chesnut, John C.
Calhoun, Sam Watkins, Frederick Douglass,
Abraham Lincoln,
{Winter: Bierce and Watkins}

2006 Great American Journeys

William Clark, Sequoyah, Herman Melville,
Harriet Tubman, {Winter: Mary Ingles}

2007 The American Stage

Houdini, Paul Robeson, Lillian Hellman,
Will Rogers, Mark Twain, {Winter: P.T. Barnum}

2008 America: The Land

John J. Audubon, Teddy Roosevelt, James
Beckwourth, Rachel Carson, Black Elk,
{Winter: Hudson River School Painters}

2009 America in Crisis

George Washington, Rosa Parks, Franklin and
Eleanor Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln,
{Winter: Wade Hampton/Robert E. Lee}

2010 American Imagination

Ben Franklin, Thomas Edison, Emily Dickinson,
Dr. Seuss, Langston Hughes,
{Winter: Thomas Jefferson}

2011 Ideas that Changed America

John Muir, Frances Perkins, Albert Einstein,
Mark Twain, W.E.B. Du Bois,
{Winter: Jefferson/ Madison}

2012 They Came to America

Winston Churchill, Golda Meir, Carl Jung,
Denmark Vesey, {Winter: Lafayette}

2013 American Legends

Davy Crockett, Susan B Anthony,
Herman Melville, Malcolm X,
{Winter: Benedict Arnold}

2014 Rising to the Occasion

Clara Barton, Patrick Henry, Robert Smalls,
Harry Truman, {Winter: Marie Curie}

2015 America at the Movies

Walt Disney, Gordon Parks, Mary Pickford,
Orson Welles, {Winter: Bette Davis}

2016 American Adventures

Amelia Earhart, Mark Twain,
Matthew Henson, Wernher von Braun,
{Winter: Meriwether Lewis}

2017 Power of Words

Abraham Lincoln, Walter Cronkite,
Maya Angelou, Cesar Chavez. Rachel Carson,
{Winter: Eleanor Roosevelt}

2018 Courage

Winston Churchill, Alice Paul, Francis Marion,
Harriet Tubman, Clara Barton,
{Winter: George Washington}

2019 It's Revolutionary!

Alexander Hamilton, Andrew Jackson,
Jackie Kennedy, Malcolm X,
Hamilton's Women, {Winter: Napoleon}

2021 Reinventing America

Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Edison,
Nikola Tesla, Rosa Parks, Hedy Lamarr,
{Winter: Teddy Roosevelt}

2022 Challenge Accepted!

General Eisenhower, Robert Kennedy, Houdini,
Georgia O'Keeffe, Pauli Murray,
{Winter: Julia Child}

2023 Secrets Revealed

James Armistead Lafayette, Mary Shelley,
Nellie Bly, Robert Ripley, Steve Jobs,
{Winter: Mark Twain}

2024 Image or Truth?

Charles Dickens, El Vaquero,
"Stagecoach Mary" Fields,
Maria von Trapp, Cass Elliot,
{Winter: Pablo Picasso}

2025 American Celebrity

Albert Einstein, Babe Ruth,
Josephine Baker, Lucille Ball, Erma Bombeck,
{Winter: Charlie Chaplin}