

Setting of Weekend at Terminus Manor

Weekend at Terminus Manor is an alternate world set in the Victorian Era. Some dates and events have been altered to create this alternate version. Similarly, while there is a Victorian fashion, the fashion sense of this alternate world encompasses anything typically considered to be 1920's era fashion and earlier. Dresses, gowns, jackets, suits, and anything that does not look more modern than the 1920's will fit in to this alternate world. Our World begins in 1897.

The War of Enlightenment

In the late 1800's, as tensions escalated between the north and south of The United States, intellectual leaders of all disciplines decided to take action. Fearing that a war in The United States might escalate to a war amongst nations, the greatest thinkers of the time, across the full spectrum of science, art, philosophy, religion and politics brought about a resurgence of the Age of Enlightenment in an attempt to foster world peace and advance the state of humanity. The War of Enlightenment was not a war of arms, but a war upon ignorance and hate.

Former rivals came together to achieve this goal, such as Edison and Westinghouse. Notable leaders in the War of Enlightenment were: Marie Curie, Booker T. Washington, Charles Darwin, Nikola Tesla, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Frederick Douglass, Walt Whitman, and many others.

There are two especially important events that lead to the success of the War of Enlightenment. The first of these is the saving of A. H. Stephens's life by Ransom Montgomery. The publishing of *On the Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin is the second.

Ransom Montgomery and Alexander Hamilton Stephens

In July of 1842, a Western and Atlantic passenger train was crossing a burning bridge over the Chattahoochee River. Ransom Montgomery, a slave, came to the rescue and saved all the passengers, as well as preventing the bridge from being destroyed. For his heroism, Ransom was given a freedom of sorts by the state of Georgia and became the second Atlanta black to own property. While this act of heroism alone is worth noting, there was another, more widely impactful result of this courageous act.

Amongst the passengers was U.S. Representative Alexander Hamilton Stephens. While a moderate supporter of slavery and a slave owner himself, the unselfishness of Ransom's act touched Representative Stephens. Stephens began to have a shift in philosophies and sought a means to bring about the peaceful end of slavery in the south. By bringing in immigrants new to the country who would work for lower wages and a possible share of land while simultaneously improving the conditions of the slaves on his lands, Mr. Stephens used his holdings as an example of what could be done to end the institution of slavery.

By implementing a fair and substantial sharing program with his new workers and former slaves, Stephens not only maintained the profitability of his lands, he actually saw a small improvement. As he began to bring in other moderate plantation holders to his way of thinking, over the span of a decade he ushered in a serious change in philosophy in the South. By the time that only the last hold-outs on slavery had not changed, the waves of the War of Enlightenment crashed upon the last hard rocks of the South and swept away the final remnants of oppression.

On The Origin of Species by Charles Darwin

Darwin's publishing of *On the Origin of Species* caused a major shift in scientific, religious and philosophical thinking. The scientific community was slow at first to accept Darwin's full theories and only adopted the general principles. It wasn't until popular and well known scientists from outside the life sciences promoted his theories that his broad ideas gained full recognition.

It was primarily Westinghouse and Edison, once rivals over the development of electric power, (and who were now partners) which lead the scientific community and debate towards Darwin's theories. Additionally it was Nikola Tesla, Edison's Chief of Research and Development, who took Darwin's theories and applied them to develop groundbreaking technologies.

Utilizing his wireless energy technology, Tesla was able to target many categories of agricultural products, accelerating their evolution, to create various types of grains, vegetables, and livestock that were more naturally resistant to disease and ailment and could thrive in climates previously barren. This brought about a near end to world hunger and a cessation of major hostilities across the globe.

While the world after the War of Enlightenment is a generally more peaceful and thoughtful place, it is not without hostility and personal conflict. The War of Enlightenment merely created a broader background of peace and stability which has allowed the general population more time and access to higher levels of education, appreciation of the arts and an overall relief from the mundane struggles of survival.

Notable People, Places and Organizations:

The Pinkerton Detective Agency (Also known as Pinkertons) The Pinkerton Agency is THE expert in criminal detection and apprehension. The Pinkerton Agency is on the forefront of forensic and investigative technologies. It's said that once a Pinkerton Man's on the case, the problem's as good as solved.

Madam Illyana Renkova Rumored to be of Russian noble descent, Madam Renkova is often sought out for her insightful views.

(More to come)