

Fall 2008

Presidential Election

Senator Barack Obama, the Democratic candidate from Chicago, has been elected President of the United States. The news headlines all over the country refer to history being made, not only for African Americans, but for all Americans.

To see how far we've come as a nation, let's take a look back. What was happening one hundred years ago in this country and in the Viatorian Community? The best place to find out is *The Viatorian*, the St. Viator College journal/newspaper collection. There are always rich and compelling articles of the times that tell the story. It's interesting to see how things have changed (or not).

The year 1908 was a Presidential election year as well – William H. Taft, Republican vs. William Jennings Bryan, Democrat. Here is the outcome as written up in the St. Viator College editorial:

(Please see next page ...)

THE VIATORIAN

Published monthly by the students of St. Viateur's College, Bourbonnais, Illinois.

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Entered at the Bourbonnais Post Office as second-class matter

*All correspondence must be addressed "The Viatorian," Bourbonnais, Illinois.
Subscription price One Dollar per year, payable in advance.*

All business communications should be addressed: Rev. J. F. Ryan, St. Viateur's College, Bourbonnais, Illinois.

EDITORIALS.

Election Outlook.

The 1908 campaign and election is at last ended and the people as well as the illustrious candidates and their active partisans have settled down to resume the routine of their different avocations and to speculate on the future acts of the President-Elect. From present indications the election of Mr. Taft, although not meeting with the wishes of everyone, points to the same generous and equitable administration of the last few years. Now that the election is over, the industries of the country should again operate vigorously and the financial stringency should be removed. With the continuance of the same vigorous Republican policies prosperity should beam on the country on all sides. The trusts will be unwilling to resist authority by again forcing a crisis, for their interests are too severely crippled by the panic of last fall. Their lesson has been too severe, their attempt too perilous and prolonged, their vanity too well satisfied. Again, the ante-election promises of the Republican party offered pleasant food for thought and as Mr. Taft is known to be a man of his word fear for the future should be an unknown quantity. In the course of the next four years we may hope to see public affairs successful beyond even the most sanguine wishes of those who

have been striving to have their principles once more to the front, pressing the standard of state toward the heights of a stainless civilization. If this is accomplished pessimistic indeed would be the man who would desire otherwise.



To get a better understanding of Taft's presidency from 1908-1912, check out the following link. This website is an excellent source for historical events. It not only gives a biography of President Taft and what happened during his term of office, but you can actually hear the speeches during his presidential campaign. A significant speech is called "The Rise and Progress of the Negro."

http://www.authentichistory.com/1900s/1908election/19080805_William_H_Taft-The_Rise_And_Progress_Of_The_Negro.html

Doesn't this make you wonder what the issues will be in 2108 – a hundred years from now? And what about the technology – how will that develop?

Seasons of Change

As elections promise change, seasons of the year guarantee change. The following poem, by J. Cosgrove, a freshman at St. Viator College, Class of 1912, could have been written today. Fall colors are always inspiring, year after year! Numerous poems portraying the seasons are published throughout the St. Viator College journals. This one was published in the 1908 journal – one hundred years ago! Awe of nature never changes. It is an unending creative source for all!

(Please see next page ...)

AUTUMN.

J. Cosgrove, '12.

The lifeless flowers lie withered,
The old brown leaves lie dead
The summer's parting from us
And Autumn comes instead.

The Red man's golden summer
Has come to visit here.
The golden time of Autumn
The gladdest of the year.

- 1 The Viatorian. Bourbonnais, IL: St. Viator College, Vol. 26, No. 2, (November 1908):53-54
- 2 The Authentic History Center: Primary Sources from American Popular Culture. October 5, 2008. November 5, 2008 <www.authentichistory.com>.
- 3 The Viatorian. Bourbonnais, IL: St. Viator College, Vol. 26, No. 2, (November 1908):49