

## 1: Anecdotes Archives - Anecdote

*History jokes, famous anecdotes and short funny stories. Funny anecdotes and short stories are a great source of examples in public speeches. This website contains short funny stories, clean jokes and humorous legends of kings and queens, politicians, famous literary figures and artists from many books and sources.*

And while we keep making movies about WWII and musicals about the American Revolution, there are a ton of stories in American history that are ripe for adaptation. Here we humbly suggest six stories that depict people and places in the past that we would want to see on the big screen. After a brief stint in the Army in , she learned about and obtained special permission to get the surgery in Denmark in Her return to the U. She was an actress and nightclub singer, known for her wit. Just months before her death in , Jorgensen said that she had given the sexual revolution a "good swift kick in the pants. He was a sickly kid with asthma, but he worked toward becoming a naturalist, historian, and politician. He was also a war hero and a big proponent of war. Despite this, he won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work regarding the Portsmouth Treaty , where he invited delegations from Japan and Russia to solve the Russo-Japanese war through diplomacy. Similar to the movie Lincoln, why not do a long, extended look at the Portsmouth Peace Conference? After his presidency, he also traveled Africa doing research for the Smithsonian, killing or capturing over 10, animals to send back alongside his writings. He also traveled the Amazon basin and, while campaigning for the presidency, survived an assassination attempt. He kept giving his speech even when he was shot, and the bullet stayed in his chest for the rest of his life. History can seem so distant and vast, but the details Boltzmann providesâ€”of the people he met, the food he ate, and the beautiful imagery he sawâ€”would provide a sumptuous and engrossing slice-of-life history. Oh sure, we know all about the Revolution, but what about before that? Having come to America from what is now the Dominican Republic to what is now Manhattan on a Dutch ship in , when the rest of the crew began preparing to return to Europe, Rodriguez decided to stay, becoming the first non-Native American to live independently in Manhattan for a prolonged period of time. What was his life like? Why did he decide to stay? What did he think of this new country? A movie could explore all that and more. Hamilton is revolutionary in how it casts people of color as the Founding Fathers, turning the stories of revolution and change into modern, fresh ideas. But what about the actual people of color involved in the Revolution? A movie that focused on these people with only glancing cameos of the Founding Fathers could be a thrilling change-up to the usual historical rendition of the Revolution. But nothing seems to be forthcoming, which is a shame, because when it comes to real-life terrifying epidemics, the Flu is horrifying. Forget an epidemic tale, this is a full-on horror story. Especially when you hear about what happened to someone when they got the flu, which we hesitate to detail here. It was a horror story that everyone in the world was experiencing.

### 2: The 30 Best Inspiring Anecdotes of All Times | inspirational Short Stories and Anecdotes Examples

*The steamboat Sultana was a Mississippi River paddlewheeler, destroyed in an explosion on 27 April, This resulted in the greatest maritime disaster in United States history.*

I strongly recommend you buy it if you want to read much more detail about the stories, people and places in this list. It is the largest archaeological site related to the Mississippian culture, which developed advanced societies in central and eastern North America, beginning more than five centuries before the arrival of Europeans. It is a National Historic Landmark and designated site for state protection. It is the largest prehistoric earthen construction in the Americas north of Mexico. It is also home to a wooden structure which appears identical in function to Stonehenge. At the high point of its development, Cahokia was the largest urban center north of the great Mesoamerican cities in Mexico. Although it was home to only about 1, people before c. In , its population was larger than that of London, England. This resulted in the greatest maritime disaster in United States history. The reason that this disaster was mostly forgotten by history is because it took place soon after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, and during the closing weeks of the Civil War. Most of the new passengers were Union soldiers, chiefly from Ohio and just released from Confederate prison camps such as Cahawba and Andersonville. The US government had contracted with the Sultana to transport these former prisoners of war back to their homes. The cause of the explosion was a leaky and poorly repaired steam boiler. Hot coals scattered by the explosion soon turned the remaining superstructure into an inferno, the glare of which could be seen in Memphis. Most people have never heard of Ziryab, yet at least two of his innovations remain to this day: He introduced asparagus and other vegetables into society, and made significant changes and additions to the music world. He had numerous children, all of whom became musicians, and spread his legacy throughout Europe. He could perhaps be considered an ancient Bach. The list of societal changes Ziryab made is immense – he popularized short hair and shaving for men, and wore different clothes based on the seasons. He created a pleasant tasting toothpaste which helped personal hygiene and longevity in the region, and also invented an underarm deodorant. He also promoted bathing twice daily. The October 8, , Peshtigo Fire in Peshtigo, Wisconsin, is the conflagration that caused the most deaths by fire in United States history. On the same day as the Peshtigo and Chicago fires, the cities of Holland and Manistee, Michigan, across Lake Michigan, also burned, and the same fate befell Port Huron at the southern end of Lake Huron. By the time it was over, 1, square miles of forest had been consumed and twelve communities were destroyed. Between 1, and 2, people are thought to have lost their lives. The fire was so intense it jumped several miles over the waters of Green Bay, and burned parts of the Door Peninsula, as well as jumping the Peshtigo River itself to burn on both sides of the inlet town. Surviving witnesses reported that the firestorm generated a tornado that threw rail cars and houses into the air. Many of the survivors of the firestorm escaped the flames by immersing themselves in the Peshtigo River, wells, or other nearby bodies of water. Some drowned while others succumbed to hypothermia in the frigid river. Nor indeed did Eannes discover the cape: In so doing, he opened new territory, not only on land but in the mind, and thus made possible the golden age of Portuguese exploration, with all its glories and horrors. At that time conventional wisdom maintained that the Sun was boiling hot at the Equator. Thus, even if a ship could get past Cape Bojador, the equatorial Sun would eventually burn it to powder. Furthermore, should a vessel somehow make it past all other hazards, its crew would most surely meet unspeakable monsters in the sub-equatorial region known as the Antipodes. By having the courage to risk his life consequently opening up new worlds, Eanes was effectively behind the European age of discoveries to come. He was, however, also in part to blame for what would become a thriving trade in slaves for centuries after. He wrote a set of Resolves that served as the blueprint for the first autonomous American government. He delivered a speech that sparked the first battles of the Revolutionary War. He was the only Patriot leader, prior to the Declaration of Independence, to risk his life against the British on the Battlefield Sandler And, remarkably, he has been largely lost to history. He was surrounded by names we are all familiar with, and yet his own name is barely ever heard these days. He painted mostly religious scenes lit by candlelight. After centuries of posthumous

obscurity, during the 20th century, he became one of the most highly regarded of French 17th-century Baroque artists. In his lifetime he was known as the Painter to the King of France, and was regarded as one of the greatest artists. Very little of his work survives and the reason for his obscurity is unknown, but thanks to the efforts of Hermann Voss, a German scholar, his work was rediscovered. During the exercise, an Allied convoy was attacked, resulting in the deaths of American servicemen. The lack of widespread knowledge of this exercise was due to intentional efforts unlike most others on this list. As a result of official embarrassment and concerns over possible leaks just prior to the real invasion, all survivors were sworn to secrecy by their superiors. Ten missing officers involved in the exercise had Bigot's level clearance for D-Day, meaning that they knew the invasion plans and could have compromised the invasion should they have been captured alive. As a result, the invasion was nearly called off until the bodies of all ten victims were found. With little or no support, from the American or British armed forces, for any venture to recover remains or dedicate a memorial to the incident, Devon resident and civilian Ken Small took on the task of seeking to commemorate the event, after discovering evidence of the aftermath washed up on the shore while beachcombing in the early s. Because of terrible congestion on Broadway, Alfred Ely Beach the young owner of the fledgling magazine Scientific American conceived of an idea to build an underground railway, which used a giant fan to propel and suck a railcar back and forth through a tunnel. Because of the corruption of the commissioner of public works, William Tweed, Beach had to get consent to build his tunnel by pretending it was to be a mail delivery system. Tweed whose income was derived largely from city transportation did not veto the request. Beach and a small group of men began digging a tunnel under Broadway in the dark of night. The entire enterprise was kept secret, as dirt was hidden in the basement of a building Beach bought for that purpose. The work went well, but just before they could complete their first line the press got wind and it became public. He charged twenty-five cents per passenger to travel from Warren Street to Murray Street. It was a huge success carrying over 100,000 passengers in its first year of operation. Unfortunately Tweed was outraged and vetoed future extensions to the subway. Tweed was eventually imprisoned for his corruption, and permission was given for Beach to resume work extending the subway, but unfortunately his private investors were fast disappearing, due to the beginnings of an economic crisis. The subway was not completed and remained hidden under the city completely sealed up complete with the luxury car and machinery until it was subsumed into the present City Hall Station. Here is the route of the subway on Google Maps. It was a key institution in the Translation Movement, and considered to have been a major intellectual center of the Islamic Golden Age. The House was an unrivaled center for the study of humanities and for Islamic science, including Islamic mathematics, Islamic astronomy, Islamic medicine, Islamic alchemy and chemistry, zoology and Islamic geography. Drawing on Persian, Indian and Greek texts including those of Pythagoras, Plato, Aristotle, Hippocrates, Euclid, Plotinus, Galen, Sushruta, Charaka, Aryabhata and Brahmagupta the scholars accumulated a great collection of world knowledge, and built on it through their own discoveries. Along with all other libraries in Baghdad, the House of Wisdom was destroyed during the Mongol invasion of Baghdad, in 1258. It was said that the waters of the Tigris ran black for six months with ink from the enormous quantities of books flung into the river. The amount of knowledge lost that year is indescribable. It is even more surprising that while most people are familiar with the destruction of the library of Alexandria, few know about the loss of the House of Wisdom.

## 3: Cossack Logic: History Jokes, Short Funny Stories and Famous Anecdotes

*Add tags for "Anecdotes from history: being a collection of anecdotes, epigrams, and episodes illustrative of English and world history,". Be the first.*

Introduction[ edit ] In all forms of anecdotal evidence, its reliability by objective independent assessment may be in doubt. This is a consequence of the informal way the information is gathered, documented, presented, or any combination of the three. The term is often used to describe evidence for which there is an absence of documentation, leaving verification dependent on the credibility of the party presenting the evidence. In science, definitions of anecdotal evidence include: For instance, in medicine, published anecdotal evidence by a trained observer a doctor is called a case report , and is subjected to formal peer review. Faulty logic[ edit ] Anecdotal evidence is often unscientific or pseudoscientific because various forms of cognitive bias may affect the collection or presentation of evidence. For instance, someone who claims to have had an encounter with a supernatural being or alien may present a very vivid story, but this is not falsifiable. This phenomenon can also happen to large groups of people through subjective validation. Anecdotal evidence is also frequently misinterpreted via the availability heuristic , which leads to an overestimation of prevalence. Where a cause can be easily linked to an effect, people overestimate the likelihood of the cause having that effect availability. In particular, vivid, emotionally charged anecdotes seem more plausible, and are given greater weight. A related issue is that it is usually impossible to assess for every piece of anecdotal evidence, the rate of people not reporting that anecdotal evidence in the population. A common way anecdotal evidence becomes unscientific is through fallacious reasoning such as the Post hoc ergo propter hoc fallacy, the human tendency to assume that if one event happens after another, then the first must be the cause of the second. Another fallacy involves inductive reasoning. For instance, if an anecdote illustrates a desired conclusion rather than a logical conclusion, it is considered a faulty or hasty generalization. Just last week I read about a girl who was dying of cancer. After drinking water she was cured. Anecdotes like this do not prove anything. Anecdotes often refer to the exception, rather than the rule: A study found that television viewing was strongly correlated with sugar consumption, but this does not prove that viewing causes sugar intake or vice versa. In medicine anecdotal evidence is also subject to placebo effects: Only double-blind randomized placebo -controlled clinical trials can confirm a hypothesis about the effectiveness of a treatment independently of expectations. By contrast, in science and logic, the "relative strength of an explanation" is based upon its ability to be tested or repeated, proven to be due to the stated cause, and verifiable under neutral conditions in a manner that other researchers will agree has been performed competently, and can check for themselves. This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. March Learn how and when to remove this template message Witness testimony is a common form of evidence in law, and law has mechanisms to test witness evidence for reliability or credibility. Legal processes for the taking and assessment of evidence are formalized. Some witness testimony may be described as anecdotal evidence, such as individual stories of harassment as part of a class action lawsuit. However, witness testimony can be tested and assessed for reliability. Examples of approaches to testing and assessment include the use of questioning to identify possible gaps or inconsistencies, evidence of corroborating witnesses, documents, video and forensic evidence. Where a court lacks suitable means to test and assess testimony of a particular witness, such as the absence of forms of corroboration or substantiation, it may afford that testimony limited or no "weight" when making a decision on the facts. Scientific evidence as legal evidence[ edit ] In certain situations, scientific evidence presented in court must also meet the legal requirements for evidence. For instance, in the United States, expert testimony of witnesses must meet the Daubert standard. This ruling holds that before evidence is presented to witnesses by experts, the methodology must be "generally accepted" among scientists. In some situations, anecdotal evidence may meet this threshold such as certain case reports which corroborate or refute other evidence. Altman and Bland argue that the case report or statistical outlier cannot be dismissed as having no weight:

### 4: Anecdotal Shakespeare | Folger Shakespeare Library

*Comment: A readable copy. All pages are intact, and the cover is intact. Pages can include considerable notes-in pen or highlighter-but the notes cannot obscure the text.*

Top motivational stories: This page features 11 stories out of the included in the book. Some of the stories in this book will make you cry others will make you smile, none will leave you indifferent. Are you ready to get empowered? For this book we scanned hundreds of motivational stories and anecdotes to bring you this collection of the top inspirational short stories. The stories will open your eyes and give you valuable insights regarding success, love, money, achievement, overcoming obstacles, relationships, hope, positive thinking, life, happiness, family, leadership, appreciation, uplifting, adversity, moving on, perseverance, encouraging, faith, and friendship. Sometimes your biggest weakness can become your biggest strength. Take, for example, the story of one year-old boy who decided to study judo despite the fact that he had lost his left arm in a devastating car accident. The boy began lessons with an old Japanese judo master. Not quite understanding, but believing in his teacher, the boy kept training. Several months later, the sensei took the boy to his first tournament. Surprising himself, the boy easily won his first two matches. The third match proved to be more difficult, but after some time, his opponent became impatient and charged; the boy deftly used his one move to win the match. Still amazed by his success, the boy was now in the finals. This time, his opponent was bigger, stronger, and more experienced. For a while, the boy appeared to be overmatched. Concerned that the boy might get hurt, the referee called a time-out. He was about to stop the match when the sensei intervened. Instantly, the boy used his move to pin him. The boy had won the match and the tournament. He was the champion. On the way home, the boy and sensei reviewed every move in each and every match. Then the boy summoned the courage to ask what was really on his mind. And second, the only known defense for that move is for your opponent to grip your left arm. Your Personal Angel A story about an angel who has been taking care of you even before you were born and will always take care no matter how much you grow old My mom only had one eye. I hated her! She was such an embarrassment. She cooked for students and teachers to support the family. There was this one day during elementary school where my mom came to say hello to me. I was so embarrassed. How could she do this to me? I ignored her, threw her a hateful look and ran out. I also wanted my mom to just disappear. I was oblivious to her feelings. I wanted out of that house, and have nothing to do with her. So I studied real hard, got a chance to go abroad to study. Then, I got married. I bought a house of my own. I had kids of my own. I was happy with my life, my kids and the comforts. Then one day, my Mother came to visit me. When she stood by the door, my children laughed at her, and I yelled at her for coming over uninvited. One day, a letter regarding a school reunion came to my house. So I lied to my wife that I was going on a business trip. After the reunion, I went to the old shack just out of curiosity. My neighbors said that she died. I did not shed a single tear. They handed me a letter that she had wanted me to have. My dearest son, I think of you all the time. I was so glad when I heard you were coming for the reunion. But I may not be able to even get out of bed to see you. So I gave you mine. I was so proud of my son who was seeing a whole new world for me, in my place, with that eye. After they were seated, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Suddenly, the curtains parted and the spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway piano on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard. Innocently, he then began to play "Chopsticks". The crowd reacted with anger, some shouts were heard, "Take the boy away! When Paderewski heard the uproar backstage, he grabbed his coat and rushed to the stage. The audience was mesmerized. We find these inspiring and thought provoking. At the end of the day, while grading the essays, a teacher read one that made her very emotional. Her husband, who had just walked in, saw her crying and asked her "What happened? Make me into a television set. I want to take its place and live like the TV in my house. Have my own special place, and have my family around me. To be taken seriously when I talk. I want to be the center of attention and be heard without interruptions or questions. I want to receive the same special care as the TV set receives even when it is not working. Have the company of my dad when he arrives home from work, even when he is tired. And I want my mom to want me

when she is sad and upset, instead of ignoring me. And I want my brothers to fight to be with me. I want to feel that family just leaves everything aside, every now and then, just to spend some time with me. And last but not least, ensure that I can make them all happy and entertain them. I just want to live like a TV. She hunted for a book in the airport shops, bought a bag of cookies and found a place to drop. She was engrossed in her book but happened to see, that the man sitting beside her, as bold as could be So she munched the cookies and watched the clock, as the gutsy cookie thief diminished her stock. With a smile on his face, and a nervous laugh, he took the last cookie and broke it in half. He offered her half, as he ate the other, she snatched it from him and thoughtâ€ Oooh, brother. She had never known when she had been so galled, and sighed with relief when her flight was called. She gathered her belongings and headed to the gate, refusing to look back at the thieving ingrate. She boarded the plane, and sank in her seat, then she sought her book, which was almost complete. As she reached in her baggage, she gasped with surprise, there was her bag of cookies, in front of her eyes. If mine are here, she moaned in despair, the others were his, and he tried to share. Too late to apologize, she realized with grief, that she was the rude one, the ingrate, the thief

**The Whole World Stinks**

Wise men and philosophers throughout the ages have disagreed on many things, but many are in unanimous agreement on one point: Soon, grandpa awoke with a snort and charged out of the bedroom saying, "This room stinks. Desperately he made his way outside only to find that "The whole world stinks! Everything we experience and everybody we encounter will carry the scent we hold in our mind.

**The Baker and the Farmer**

A baker in a little country town bought the butter he used from a nearby farmer. One day he suspected that the bricks of butter were not full pounds, and for several days he weighed them. They were short weight, and he had the farmer arrested. At the trial the judge said to the farmer, "I presume you have scales? I have balances and for a weight I use a one-pound loaf I buy from the baker. In life, you get what you give. It takes a disciplined spirit to endure the monastery on Mount Serat in Spain. One of the fundamental requirements of this religious order is that the young men must maintain silence. Opportunities to speak are scheduled once every two years, at which time they are allowed to speak only two words. One young initiate in this religious order, who had completed his first two years of training, was invited by his superior to make his first two-word presentation.

### 5: Popular Anecdotes Books

*Book A scarce first edition of Grant Uden's Anecdotes from History. With close to epigrams and episodes from throughout world history, Uden aimed that this publication be a teaching aid to students of history.*

Although his stories usually have happy endings, his own story most certainly did not start happily. He eventually worked in a factory to help pay off the debts, and the terrible working conditions were a major inspiration to his writing. As an adult, he appeared to be a more lighthearted guy, often pulling practical jokes. Einstein, although a seemingly friendly, intelligent guy had quite a few skeletons in the closet. In , Einstein and his first girlfriend, Mileva Maric, were on holiday in Italy. It ended when Mileva found herself with child and Einstein found himself with no money to support her and the new baby. Later in life, Einstein left Mileva in and divorced her in and married his cousin Elsa Lowenthal soon after. Speaking of his wife, Fanny Osbourne met Robert Louis Stevenson while she was in Parisâ€”they fell in love, and she became his muse. When Fanny had to return home to America, Stevenson saved up for three years to see her again so that they could be together. Hard labor was part of the daily regime in the frontier where Lincoln grew up, and, at the age of nine, he lost his mother to milk sickness. They were caught and sentenced to a year in jail. So, he was nuttier than a squirrel. He is thought to have begun to lose his marbles due to arsenic poisoning, since arsenic was spread around like fairy dust in everything back in the early 19th century from medicine to cosmetics. Eventually confined to a straitjacket within his own palace, he died in , blind and insane. Short dude with a complex that they eventually named after him, tried to take over Europe, etc. His childhood was a pitiful oneâ€”his father died of stomach cancer and left his family penniless due to his gambling. Teddy Roosevelt was born to the wealthy Roosevelt family in New York City and was known to be sickly, asthmatic, and very hyper child. He also took up boxing at a young age to combat his weak constitution. Roosevelt had an injury to the left eye caused by boxing while in office. He took many trips to Africa and South America where he hunted and studied numerous exotic species. His best story, perhaps, concerns a speech in Milwaukee in . During the speech, an assassin tried to kill Roosevelt with a gun, but the bullet was slowed down by his folded speech and eyeglass case. Peter the Great was the Czar of Russia in the 18th century. Seeing how backwards Russia was, he decided to tour Western Europe in order to find ways to modernize his country. Peter took the guise of an average merchant to avoid being discovered and came back to Russia with many ways to improve the empire. He set up new schools, created the mighty port of St. Petersburg, and ordered all Russian men to shave their beards or pay a tax. Yes, you read that right. Russians grow such poor beards that they had to pay to keep them. He also had a museum of oddities ranging from deformed animal fetuses to animal parts to dispel superstition in his country. His mother eventually died of liver issues after becoming psychotic due to syphilis and malnutrition. In , Burton convinced the Royal Geographic Society to give him a leave of absence from the army to travel to Mecca and disguise himself as a Muslimâ€”even getting circumcised to keep up the illusionâ€”to make it there. While exploring in Africa, he was impaled by a javelin in a foray with a group of Somali warriors, yet escaped alive. He spoke over 30 different languages and dialects and was a diplomat later in life. It seems likely Sir Richard took plenty of tales to the grave. He was once studied by a squirrel as a kid.

### 6: - Anecdotes from History by Grant Uden

2. *Future U.S. President Andrew Jackson Killed Charles Dickinson for Calling Him a "Wordless Scoundrel, a Poltroon, and a Coward"* 3. *Julius Caesar was Once Kidnapped by Pirates Who Demanded a Ransom of 20 Talents of Silver. Caesar Insisted They Ask for*

My favorite anecdote is about a Hungarian weather forecaster on the radio. The Soviets saw potential in the radio and were extra curious about it. This was a few years before in which Hungary would revolt against the Soviet system, but tensions were still high between the nations. The man walks into his office and sits down before his radio and begins to read the latest forecasts. It seemed to be a cold front approaching from the east, he did his job and reported it. The KGB was listening to him and clearly understood the implication in what he said: Soviet, approaching from the east, is bad and cold weather - and the Hungarians better prepare themselves for them. They moved to arrest him the same night. A late night knock on the door and he was on his way to the Gulag I think, she does not expand on his fate. Another good one is Nikolaj Starostin , a footballer so good that he was recruited by football interested party members to create a hyper-team, Spartacus Moscow Spartak Moscow. Even worse for poor Nikolaj was that the chief of the Secret Police, Lavrentiy Beria, had been humiliated in the 20ies in a match against Nikolaj. It just happened to turned out that Beria would become the chief over the Soviet Secret police. Off to the Gulag with him. He even said he was relieved to finally be arrested, he had been on high alert about it for a while, according to Applebaum. The tragedy of being too good. Then we also had the Kengir Uprising. Gulag interns rose up and took over their camp following the death of Stalin. They managed to take over the camp and while this sounds like the start of something out of Arkham Asylum, it actually became the complete opposite. It turned into a regular society well, as regular a society can be within a prison The interns organized themselves, elected leaders, and began to strategize. They managed to construct a radio!!! During their brief 40 day liberation they wrote poetry, composed songs, arranged marriages between interns with an imprisoned Priest to legitimize the union. Sadly, the Soviet tanks then rolled in and ended their brief freedom. Applebaum makes a difference between "political" and actual criminals. She writes a lot about the relations between the two classes but what I think makes the best anecdotes is the so called Thieves Law. An honor-system where upholding your promises was required. If you did not you were as good as dead, an outcast in the eyes of the dominant class in the prison. Anne mentions two very appalling cases. The first one is about a prisoner who made a bet in an card-game. If he won he would get another piece of bread. If he lost, he would be branded with penis in the face, literally branded. He lost the wager and thus his face was pressed into a branding iron and was scarred for life. Another anecdote was recorded a prisoner who would later write about his ordeals, Anton Antonov-Ovseyenko. He met a deaf-mute in his camp. It turned out that he was a normal criminal who had lost a wager. His bet was that he would not talk for three years if he lost - he lost. However, what makes his story so remarkable is that he lost the bet in another Gulag. He was still so terrified of the criminals control of the Gulags to break his vow because if he did, he would die a most horrible death. I might write some more anecdotes from the book, some horrible ones about Women and their children maybe, in another day.

### 7: Anecdote | Definition of Anecdote by Merriam-Webster

*The Best Inspiring Anecdotes of All Time (Short Motivational Stories) The motivational stories and anecdotes presented on this page are excerpts from the book: Top motivational stories: the best inspirational short stories and anecdotes of all time.*

Episode 57 The curses associated with the Scottish play. Using a real skull for the Yorick scene in Hamlet. Over the centuries, these and other fascinating theatrical anecdotes have attached themselves to the plays of William Shakespeare. Many of these stories have been told and retold, over and over, century after century with each new generation inserting the names of new actors into the story and telling the story as if it just occurred. His book *Anecdotal Shakespeare: He was interviewed by Neva Grant. From the Shakespeare Unlimited podcast series. Published September 20,* Garland Scott is the associate producer. Esther French is the web producer. The ones about what happens when actors onstage go off script, what goes on backstage, and what theater people do after the show ends each night. Paul Menzer of Mary Baldwin College in Stanton, Virginia, has written a delightful new book about the anecdotes that, over centuries, have attached themselves to the plays of William Shakespeare. Many of these stories have been told and retold over and over, century after century, with each new generation inserting the names of new actors into the story and telling the story as if it just occurred. I think the best way to start this conversation, which is a conversation all about anecdotes, is with a story. I will start with the story that started it all, for me at least. And one Saturday, for a matinee, their agents came to town before the show, and the four men had a kind of pre-show lunch, during which they put a few bottles away. And come show time, Robert Newton, who was playing Richard III, and so therefore has to open the show, walks onstage, or staggers onstage, rather, followed by a vapor trail of wine. And he approaches the edge of the stage and begins the famous opening lines to Richard III and he says, "Now is Now is the winter But, as I understand it, you caught wind of this story by watching the Johnny Carson show. So explain that a little bit. Then, flash forward to just a few years ago, an actor I work with told me the version that I just told you about Robert Newton and Wilfrid Lawson, and he insisted upon its singularity. And at that point it struck me that I had heard this story over and over again over the years with different actors slotted into the template of its narrative. And indeed, I went and did some research and found, maybe over the last years, a dozen different versions of that same story, with maybe a dozen different actors in it. Dating back how far? Well, you know, the earliest version I found is a, sort of proto version of it, say in the seven, I think And the actor playing the Bishop of Winchester sent him back a note saying "the Bishop of Winchester is getting drunk at The Bear, and damn your eyes if he will appear tonight. It shows up with a more obscure actor in the 18th century named Bailie Nicoll Jarvie. It shows up with Olivier. On and on and on, these actors continue to tell the same story over and over again. And Stephen Fry, a great writer, anecdotalist himself, and a great actor, was playing Malvolio in that production. If this is just the one, there have to be more of these. There have to be more of these stories that have kind of worked their way through theater lore, over time, on up to the modern day. And I started to collect them. And what I found was that particular plays by Shakespeare, particularly the most popular, maybe even canonical or hypercanonical, plays by Shakespeare, each of them have one or two anecdotes that have followed it across the years. Dates change, names shift, but the story stays the same. And I got very interested in thinking about, "Can we tell the history of Shakespeare in performance through the anecdotes that most durably attached themselves to those plays? I think so, too. These anecdotes are a form of what I call "vernacular criticism" by the actors that appear in the plays. I want to dive into the anecdotes really soon, but before we do, I just want to talk about a couple more theories about why these anecdotes might even exist. And the first one being people are just naturally curious about what happens behind the scenes in the theater, right? I mean nothing is more tantalizing than a closed curtain. And like the anecdote I just told, I opened with, it begins in the bar and moves to the stage, and so therefore reveals something about the off-stage life of these actors before they step onstage and become a character. And, of course, these actors in their off-stage lives, are often larger than life characters. And that is one thing that these attitudes are retailing, are giving us. They are a form of celebrity gossip, of course, but they extend the actor

from just a character into a legend. And what makes an actor a legend is often what goes on offstage, not just what goes on. Then you have another really interesting theory about why these anecdotes evolved, and that is that theater, by its very nature, is repetitive and so, naturally, we want an anecdote like this. Something surprising, something unexpected, to kind of jazz it up. I mean, I think the reason that actors tell them is that for all of its reputation for "different every night," liveness, ephemerality— theater is, as you say, a very repetitive endeavor. I mean actors live literally prescribed lives. They have to live out that whole journey eight days a week— twice on Saturdays. And therefore, it is a sort of annihilatingly mundane, repetitious thing to do. Can you give me an example of that? Something that interrupts the action in an unexpected way, takes it off in an unusual direction. There is an oft-told anecdote about Hamlet, particularly at the moment where Hamlet asks Rosencrantz to "play upon this pipe" and Rosencrantz insists that he cannot. This is a key feature of the anecdote. Which totally stops things in its track. Which is the last song that Hamlet wants to hear. Right, right, and what a layered message there. But it must have, I think, as you say in your book, it would have caused the audience to, you know It would have caused this English audience to stand, which is what one does during God Save the King, and then replay exactly what Claudius has done just moments earlier, rise during a performance of *The Mouse Trap*, and walk out. And as you point out in the book, often these kind of anecdotes of surprise come up in the tragedies because the comedies leave a little more room for improvisation. It was not my design, but I was surprised as I began this research that most of the materials that were coming up were from tragedies. You know one of the anecdotes that our audience probably knows the best is the story, or, I guess I should say the curse, that hangs over the play *Macbeth*. I think this is the one that has sort of made it out into the popular culture. How did that evolve? This is where the project diverts a little bit from its template, in that with the curse of *Macbeth*, I ended up doing some debunking. Whereas most of the rest of the book is bunking. I wanted to sort of prolong and extend these anecdotes, but in the case of *Macbeth*, I went at it from on the other end, which was to ask "How did this particular anecdote evolve and endure? This is a curse where if you are, if you are in the theater, you are not to say the name of that play inside the theater. You call it *The Scottish Play*. Because if you say the name *Macbeth*, what will happen? All sorts of things. All sorts of accidents will attend upon you. Sandbags will fall from the heavens, actors will fall through traps, people will break their legs, etcetera, etcetera, on and on. But particularly, the production of *Macbeth* will become doomed if you say *Macbeth* inside the theater, other than, of course, with your scripted dialogue, which insists that you do. And so, therefore, all sorts of counter rituals have been evolved to undo that curse. If you do say *Macbeth* in the theater, you can go outside, turn around three times, spit, and knock for readmittance. Why did it happen? In my book, one thing that I discovered is that the idea of the curse I could not find in my research any mention of the curse until about the s. But from the s onward, we always refer to it as "an ancient curse," even though it appears to be an early 20th century invention. But I think that I have a little bit of a half-baked, maybe even quarter-baked, theory about how the curse theory evolved. And this idea of the curse emerged. But I think, you know, and this is where *Macbeth*, after all, is a play about disillusionment. *Macduff* was not "of woman born"; he was the product of a caesarean birth. So the play disillusion us. The play strips away all that mystique. The play strips all that, punctures all the magic that we believed in. And I think the curse is a way of reinflating the play. Back to Hamlet and the skulls. Yes, or the skull, or over time, the many skulls. That appear in the scene with Yorick in the graveyard. One of the most enduring anecdotes about Hamlet, productions of Hamlet, concerns the realness of the skull. Rather than a prop. And this story of the real skull in Hamlet endures, endures, endures. A recent example is a production of Hamlet at the Royal Shakespeare Company starring David Tennant, in which a story ultimately began to circulate that David Tennant was not using a fake skull, but using a real skull, for Yorick.

## 8: 8 Amazing History Stories

*History jokes, short funny anecdotes, fables, legends, brief amusing stories and popular tales about life in the olden days, and about many famous men and women -- true, but occasionally fictitious.*

The full engraving is found at *Speculum Romanae Magnificentiae*, [Image no. If I were a chicken, I would consider the modern crop of humans to be an irreverent lot. In ancient Roman times, a roost of prophetic chickens was habitually consulted by eminent statesmen on matters of the utmost importance. While the very notion might strike the modern reader as being almost comical, to the Romans the sacred chickens were no laughing matter. During the First Punic War, Publius Claudius Pulcher turned to the sacred chickens for approval of his plan to launch a surprise attack on the Carthaginian fleet at the harbour of Drepana. The naval battle which ensued saw the near annihilation of the Roman fleet. A humiliated Pulcher returned to Rome in the aftermath of the disastrous engagement whereupon he was tried on the charge of impiety. What happened next is unclear but it seems that he was either convicted and sentenced to exile [2], or acquitted when the proceedings were adjourned due to a sudden shower of rain and the authorities decided not to bother starting it all over again [3]. Whatever the outcome, Pulcher evidently died soon afterwards. On another occasion the sacred chickens ran off into the woods just as Gaius Hostilius Mancinus was preparing to consult them about his upcoming campaign against the Numantians. The chickens were searched for high and low, but they were never found. As for Mancinus, he suffered a decisive military defeat at the hands of the Numantines, was compelled to accept the terms of their peace treaty, and returned to Rome to face a trial by the Senate. The Conscript Fathers refused to ratify the treaty and decided instead for Mancinus to be handed over stark naked to the Numantines. This was arranged but the Numantines refused to accept the wretch [5, 6]. Lastly Tiberius Gracchus – the Bernie Sanders of the Roman Republic – disregarded an unfavourable omen from the sacred chickens at his home about attending a political assembly at the Campus Martius. It would take socialism two thousand years to recover from what happened next. All this was set into motion when Gracchus stubbed his toe very badly on his way out the door to speak at the assembly about his proposed land redistribution legislation. Matters only got worse from there. Gracchus was straightaway assailed by a trio of crows that knocked a roof-tile down in front of his feet as they flew away in a mad frenzy. In the mayhem that followed, the champion of the people was beaten to death with a wooden club and dumped into the Tiber [7]. So much for socialism in the Roman Republic. Fortunately for Bernie Sanders, the ruling elites in America have other more humane mechanisms set in place to prevent troublemaking misfits like him from ever coming to power. All this is to say that the chickens of those times commanded the respect of the people. It is difficult to imagine a world in which chickens were appreciated for reasons that go beyond being a ready source of meat. But the relationship between people and domestic animals in ancient times was very different from that of our own. Across the ancient world, if one wanted to eat meat, one could only do so within a sacrificial context. The institution of the temple complex ensured that animal life was held sacred. The same cannot be said for the barnyard animals of our day – far from it. Consider modern chickens who live in abject misery on factory farms until it comes time to be unceremoniously processed and consumed by the people of the developed world. And while chickens may have it worst of all, cows and pigs fare scarcely any better, if at all. The global civilisation to which we belong has by now surpassed all the achievements of ancient world with one glaring exception: This especially holds true of chickens. But if we are ever to meet their moral standard on a societal scale, it ought not to be on account of the same primitive superstitions. Fortunately animal rights – the ethic that animals be viewed as persons, rather than property or commodities – has been gradually gaining acceptance in society, owing mainly to the efforts of dedicated activists. While this is cause for optimism, the biggest obstacle for the advancement of animal rights is, I think, that we tend to either rationalise our actions that violate the ethical principles we espouse, or at least place a cognitive dissonance between them. Meat is simply too delicious for the majority of us to forgo. The saintly turn to veganism, but this monastic resolution, while admirable, cannot be expected to spread across a sizeable proportion of the population. The best hope as I see it rests in the large-scale production of synthetic meat. It is only then that

we will come as a society to perceive clearly the evils of industrial meat production, however their synthetic competitors have not yet perfected their craft. Footnotes [1] I myself have anecdotal evidence in support of these claims. My cousin Jimmy worked at a chicken processing plant somewhere in Nova Scotia, Canada one summer back in the s. He was afterwards made to put on big rubber gloves and go back to pluck off any partially severed heads. He works as an accountant nowadays, I think. On the contrary, chickens are the single most idiotic vertebrate with which I have had any firsthand interaction. In addition to my own personal experiences, a certain schoolteacher who once raised a roost of chickens for his class told me that they need to be kept in their coop during times of rain, because otherwise they will stare up at the sky with open beaks and drown from the falling raindrops. References [1,,7] Valerius Maximus: Memorable Deeds and Sayings: I have taken the liberty to include quotations from the book below, as there is at present no English translation of Valerius Maximus available freely online. Quote ids refer to the location of the passages in the text. For example, the id 1. Footnote enumeration is the same as in Walker. During the First Punic War Publius Claudius wanted to fight a naval battle, and asked for the auspices in the traditional way of our forefathers. He was placed at the mercy of the angered people, and it was believed that there was no way he could escape his inevitable punishment, but by virtue of a sudden shower of rain he was saved from a conviction. The hearing was disrupted, and they decided not to start it all over again, since the gods seemed to have obstructed it. So a storm at sea had forced him to plead his case, and a storm from heaven had brought him an acquittal. Publius Claudius Pulcher was consul in BC. He had thrown the sacred chickens into the sea and then lost most of the Roman fleet see 1. The aediles of the plebs fined Claudia for the misanthropic statement in BC. As this consul was about to go off to Spain, the following prodigies occurred []. He wanted to make a sacrifice at Lavinium, but when the sacred chickens were released from their cage, they ran off into nearby woods, and although they were searched for with the greatest diligence, they could not be found []. He reached the Port of Hercules on foot, and as he was going on board his ship there, these words from no human speaker came to his ears: So the number of these prodigies equalled the number of his disasters: Lavinium was near the coast of Latium. The Port of Hercules is now called Monaco. The Senate refused to ratify his peace treaty and handed him over to the Numantines in BC. When he went on obstinantly, he soon knocked his foot outside the door so badly that he broke a joint. Then three crows flew in his face with ill-omened claws, started fighting among themselves, and in doing so knocked a tile down before his feet. When he consulted the gods on the Capitol he received similar auspices. He had behaved badly as a tribune, so he was killed by Scipio Nasica: The plebeian aedile, Lucretius, ordered that his body, and all the bodies of those who were killed with him, be left unburied and thrown into the Tiber. Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus tribune of the plebs, BC was a populist politician. This conservative politician was also the chief pontiff from BC until his death in BC. The plebeian aedile for BC was Lucretius Vespillo. De Divinatione, translated by W. Read this passage at the Perseus Digital Library.

### 9: Stories and Anecdotes | The Story Solver

*An anecdote is a brief, revealing account of an individual person or an incident. Occasionally humorous, anecdotes differ from jokes because their primary purpose is not simply to provoke laughter but to reveal a truth more general than the brief tale itself, such as to characterize a person by delineating a specific quirk or trait, to communicate an abstract idea about a person, place, or.*

Stories and Anecdotes December 2, by valadolph When people ask the difference between an anecdote and a story, the quick answer is that an anecdote is shorter than a story. That is often, but not always, true. My dictionary tells me that an anecdote is a short, usually amusing, account of an incident, especially one that is personal or biographical. A story, the dictionary says, is the narration of a chain of events. Again the word comes from Greek via Latin. So an anecdote is the tale of an incident. A story is several events that hang naturally together. It might be true, but very likely it is fiction, or at least partly fiction. Motivational speakers who address their audience for an hour or more string anecdotes together linked by their reflections and lessons learned from the meaning of each incident. In the end the speech is almost like the story of their life to date â€” a series of events that hang naturally together. Stories are more complex than anecdotes. You can only wring just so much meaning out of one anecdote. Stories, on the other hand, with their series of events can multiply levels of meaning depending on how the teller chooses to include or exclude events and how she chooses to manipulate the characters through the events. Stories have a plot, which is just simply a plan. Anecdotes have no plan. They are just a record perhaps embroidered of one event. I could tell you about the big dog that attacked mine this morning. I could rattle on about it for half an hour. I could take lessons from it about dog training or leash laws. I could make it vivid, sharing my fear. But in the end it is still just an anecdote. I could include it in a story, as one scene. It would be vivid because it is something I actually experienced. It would be like one bead â€” attractive, but it would need a lot more beads to make a necklace.

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