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The Chronicle

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Raindrops on the Pond. Photo by Becky Taylor

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Depression Days Doctoring Campville's Country Doctor

An Oral History by Alice Sherouse Rozier, in 1998



Photo provided by David A. Collins

If you are travelling along highway 301 at the rate of 65mph, you might not notice the small community of Campville, just four miles north of Hawthorne. The "city limit" signs are there to inform passersb—along with a quarter-mile stretch of lovely old homes situated west of the railroad tracks—but little else.

However, during the 20s and 30s this community was buzzing with activity, boasting two grocery stores—Dyess' and Long's—a post office, a sawmill, turpentine still, the Campville Brick Company, a railroad depot, a barber shop, an ice cream parlor, two churches—the Methodist and the Baptist—a school, a candy store, and a resident country doctor, affectionately known as "Dr. George."

Alice Rozier, the daughter of Dr. George Washington Sherouse and Flora Mathews Sherouse, shares some of her family history and fondest childhood memories of life in the home of a country doctor.

My dad, Dr. George Washington Sherouse, was born about four miles east of Campville (in what is known now as Beckhamtown, on CR1474, located a few miles north of Hawthorne, FL) on January 20, 1885. He grew up there and attended school in the one-room Godwin schoolhouse a couple of miles north. From there, he went right into medical school at Emory Medical College in Atlanta, Georgia, graduating in 1911, and then moved back home and opened an office in Campville, where he started his medical practice. His whole medical career was here, except for two years when he served as company doctor for a sawmill in Levy County after his service in the army in World War I.

I was born on August 3, 1920, while we were living in Levy County.

My mother was born in Campville on January 7, 1889, just a few houses north of where I live today. She was the daughter of Neil and Louise Mathews, and one of five children. The house is still standing and is owned and occupied today by Bob (now deceased) and Betty Stone.

She went to the Campville Baptist Church and Daddy went to the Orange Creek Methodist Church

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Lessons of the Great 2020 Pandemic

by Barb Howe

During the Great Pandemic of 2020, life on Planet Earth has changed radically in a very short period of time. A highly contagious, deadly virus is sweeping across our small globalized world and teaching us new lessons about the value of solitude, a return to a slower pace of life, and how communities can come together while remaining physically distant. It is also teaching us an important lesson about what government is for.

In one sense, many are becoming like the 19th century philosopher Henry David Thoreau, who went to the woods near Walden Pond. We are holed up in our little houses, apartments, mobile homes, or mansions with time on our hands to reflect and ponder the meaning of our too-short lives:

I went into the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived, Thoreau wrote in 1854.

The pandemic has brought about new thoughts on living simpler, inventions of new ways to connect with our neighbors and become close—even while we remain physically apart in order to slow the spread of the disease while scientists work on coming up with a vaccine or cure.

Self-quarantining is easier for some of us than for others. In a technologically advanced society many of us have jobs we can do from home, but that doesn't mean it's an easy adjustment to make. Families with children have a hard time with schools shut down. Parents have to juggle working from home while home-schooling their children, whose disrupted routines and separation from friends make them anxious and cranky. It is not an easy thing to do.

Others have jobs that can't be laid off. They have different lack of income and/or health care are out of work.

It helps to go outside, even patio. Mother Nature is so in-where, even in the biggest, be among just a few dandebut nature is out there, and any it out during these hard times ished and rejuvenated. Humans of animal.

But the Great Pandemic also role of government.

As the body count here in higher (by Memorial Day it lives lost), we are reminded that when faced with an existential threat such as war or famine, or a pandemic, the vast majority of humans come together and help one another. But there are some things we cannot do as individuals on our own. Containing a highly

As of June 21, 2020 over 122,247 U. S. lives have been lost due to the pandemic.

be done from home. Many are challenges, including sudden insurance. Millions of people

if it's only on a small porch or domitable she creeps in every-most crowded cities. This may lions or some scraggly trees, human who takes time to seek will undoubtedly feel nour-are, after all, just another kind

has a lesson for us about the

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A helpful message from The Chronicle.

To place your order for a FREE mask(s), contact us at the email address below, and include your name, address, the minimum number of masks needed, and whether for male(s), female(s), teen, or child; they will be mailed to you.

Have a SAFE 4th of July

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Lessons, from Cover

contagious disease and developing a vaccine are two of them.

There is a popular ideology, however, that particularly appeals to the American tradition of individualism and self-sufficiency, and it concludes that we don't need government at all—or that government is always and only a bad thing, an oppressive force to be resisted at all costs. The current administration is of this mind, and has dutifully eviscerated federal agencies, gutted national institutions, and fired long-term civil servants with years of expertise.

In Florida, the unprecedented budget cuts made in 2011 by Governor Rick Scott, resulted in the firing of more than four thousand county health department workers and the closing and underfunding of state labs that could have been preparing and processing COVID-19 tests for us now.

All these unwise actions have made it more difficult for us to make a strong coordinated response to this national emergency, and the death toll reflects this.

A reliance upon good judgment and preparedness is what government is for.

The free market is a wonderful solution for cultivating innovation, providing for the efficient production of goods and services, and creating economic opportunity in many



Malmesbury in Wiltshire, England, where Hobbes was born (1588-1679).



“Whatsoever therefore is consequent to a time of war, where every man is enemy to every man, the same consequent to the time wherein men live without other security than what their own strength and their own invention shall furnish them withal. In such condition there is no place for industry; because the fruit thereof is uncertain: and consequently no culture of the earth; no navigation, nor use of the commodities that may be imported by sea; no commodious building; no instruments of moving, and removing, such things as require much force; no knowledge of the face of the earth; no account of time; no arts; no letters; no society; and which is worst of all, continual fear, and danger of violent death; and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.” — Thomas Hobbes

areas, but it is not the best solution for everything. The private sector has no motive (and indeed a strong disincentive) to build excess capacity for dealing with rare events. It simply wouldn't be profitable. And yet, as the pandemic has shown us, such practices are needed.

The question of why people invented governments is an old one. In 1651, Thomas Hobbes argued in his book “Leviathan,” that without any government at all life would be “nasty, brutish and short” since there were no rules to govern peaceful co-existence with one's fellow humans. This is the basis of the “social contract,” which is the idea that in exchange for giving up the complete freedom to do whatever we feel like, we turn over to the state some of our freedoms (such as the freedom to murder our neighbors) and in exchange we gain a more civilized existence (less murdering.) Living without any government at all would mean every man for himself.

Sometimes the state/government can go too far and take away too many of our freedoms. George Orwell wrote about what life would be like in that particular Big Brother situation in his classic novel “1984.” Also, we know that not all governments are created equal; some are better than others. Democracy is clearly better than a dictatorship. A government of, by, and for the people has a great deal of legitimacy that is lacking in autocratic regimes. It's a better social contract. Anything we can do to increase democracy and decrease authoritarianism is our best bet for a safe and peaceful life.

And so, going back to the pandemic, after a vaccine is finally invented and distributed (through the help of many governments), life can once again return to normal and perhaps we will all recognize that government *does* have a role to play in our lives. It's not just a big evil bureaucracy that makes us pay taxes. We get something in return for it. What we get in return depends on the quality of officials we elect and the type of government we choose.

As wise as Henry David Thoreau was in seeking wisdom in nature, he was wrong about another of his famous quotes: “. . . government is best which governs least” (*Civil Disobedience*, 1849). More correctly, it is that government is best which governs most effectively, balancing respect for individual rights while providing for the collective security for all.

As the 2020 Presidential election arrives in the middle of a pandemic, it is worthwhile to ask: what kind of government are we getting now in exchange for our freedoms? Is the quality of our current social contract the best we can do, or is it time to renegotiate?



Barb Howe is a Florida-based writer.

“Look not at the greatness of the evil past, but the greatness of the good to follow.” —Thomas Hobbes