



CONTACT:
Lauren Perry, Public Affairs Director
Ph: (561) 655-2833 ext. 13
E: publicaffairsdirector@flaglermuseum.us

Photos for publication available upon request

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 2020

Pulitzer Prize Winner, Best-Selling Authors to Spotlight American Railroad ‘Visionaries’ at Flagler Museum

Tycoons, pioneers, and “Commodores” on the schedule for the 2020 Whitehall Lecture Series

PALM BEACH, FL - The [Henry Morrison Flagler Museum](#)’s annual Whitehall Lecture Series will present four lectures this February and March by renowned experts on the fascinating histories of American railroad empires and the powerful industry pioneers who built them. Titled ‘Transcontinental: American Railroads and the Visionaries Who Built Them’, the lecture series focuses on America’s drive into the unknown West and the notorious businessmen who led the way, including Cornelius Vanderbilt, Collis Huntington and Jay Gould. Lectures at the Flagler Museum are free for Members at the Sustaining Level and higher, \$10 for Members at the Individual and Family levels, and \$28 for Non-members (includes Museum admission). A ticket package for all four lectures in the Whitehall Lecture Series is \$100 (includes Museum admission). When possible, a book signing with the speaker follows each lecture.

• WHITEHALL LECTURE SERIES

Transcontinental: American Railroads and the Visionaries Who Built Them
Every Sunday at 3:00 pm, February 9 - March 1, 2020

In a time when the spirit of expansion was sweeping across a growing nation, few men found themselves equipped with the necessary resources to envision and build a railroad empire. Captains of industry Jay Gould, Collis Huntington, and Cornelius Vanderbilt did however, and each of them, in their own time, carved out a legendary place in history.

- 1. **February 9, 2020** - “America’s Mainline: The Fight for the Southwest Transcontinental”
Speaker: Walter R. Borneman

After the completion of the first transcontinental railroad, the next challenge was to build an even better, more direct route through the American Southwest. Led by shrewd empire builders, dozens of rival railroads aggressively constructed lines through the West in a transcontinental contest that lasted more than a quarter of a century. “America’s Mainline” will explore the battles and the eventual victory of what remains the country’s mainline between Chicago and Los Angeles.

- 2. **February 16, 2020** - “The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt”
Speaker: T.J. Stiles

Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner T.J. Stiles tells the epic story of “Commodore” Cornelius Vanderbilt, one of the richest and most powerful figures in world history. Stiles describes the three decisive leaps Vanderbilt made on his way from the deck of a sailboat to command of a railroad empire. Brilliant and ruthless, Vanderbilt helped to invent the modern corporate economy amid wars, social upheaval, and family turmoil.

- 3. **February 23, 2020** - “The Life and Legend of Jay Gould: Notorious Railroad Pioneer and Captain of Industry”
Speaker: Maury Klein

By far the most notorious and hated financier of his time, Jay Gould stunned the business world first by saving the Union Pacific Railroad from bankruptcy and then, after acquiring the Missouri Pacific Railroad, used it as the core of a new southwestern rail



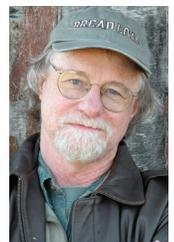
Borneman



Stiles



Klein



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system that pioneered the economic development of that region.

4. **March 1, 2020 - “Empire Express: The Building of the First Transcontinental Railroad”**

Speaker: David Haward Bain

The Transcontinental Railroad as a project signified the dawn of a new era. “Empire Express” is the story of a new and unfathomable enterprise to connect far off places from the big cities in the East to indigenous settlements across the great unknown of the West. Sealed with the driving in of the Golden Spike in the Utah desert in 1869, and shrouded in scandal soon after, the Railroad represented the legacy of enterprise in American business and the development of the American character.

The Whitehall Lecture Series is sponsored in part by The Palm Beach Post and Hilton West Palm Beach.

Programming at the Flagler Museum is sponsored in part by Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, the Tourist Development Council, the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, and the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

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The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum

When it was completed in 1902, Whitehall, Henry Flagler’s Gilded Age estate in Palm Beach, was hailed by the New York Herald as “more wonderful than any palace in Europe, grander and more magnificent than any other private dwelling in the world.” Today, Whitehall is a National Historic Landmark and is open to the public as the Flagler Museum, featuring guided tours, changing exhibits, and special programs. The Museum is located at One Whitehall Way, Palm Beach, FL 33480.

The Museum is open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and noon until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$10 for youth ages 13-17, \$3 for children ages 6-12, and children under six are free. Guided tours, audio tours, printed self-guide brochures and the Flagler Museum Audio Tour app are all complimentary with Museum admission. Audio tours and self-guide brochures are available in English, Spanish, French, German and Portuguese.

For more information, please call the Flagler Museum at (561) 655-2833 or visit www.flaglermuseum.us.



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