

***RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
invites you to attend its meeting, on Wednesday, May 21, 2014.
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT.***

DAVID KOCH

THE AGE OF PROGRESS: INVENTIONS OF THE 19TH CENTURY



The history of technology is the history of the invention of tools and techniques, similar in many ways to the history of humanity.

Knowledge has enabled people to create new things and, conversely, many scientific endeavors have become possible through technologies. The 19th century saw astonishing developments in transportation, construction, and communication technologies.

The steam engine, which had existed since the early 18th century, was practically applied to both steamboat and railway transportation. Telegraphy developed into a practical technology in the 19th century to help run the railways safely. Other technologies were explored for the first time, including the incandescent light bulb, mass production and interchangeable parts (which began in the firearms industry). Shoe production was mechanized and sewing machines introduced around the middle of the 19th century. Mass production of sewing machines and agricultural machinery such as reapers occurred in the mid to late 19th century. Steam-powered factories became widespread. Steamships were eventually completely iron-clad, and played a role in the opening of Japan and China to trade with the West. The Second Industrial Revolution at the end of the 19th century saw rapid development of chemical, electrical, petroleum, and steel technologies connected with highly structured technology research.

David Koch will discuss the intersection of various historical themes- in literature and politics, as well as technological, medical, and scientific advances- in the 19th Century. This talk highlights the effects and influences that each area had on the others. Romanticism, invention, nationalism, and a growing reliance on scientific theory will be brought out during the presentation. It will include brief mentions on figures like Mary and Percy Shelley, Byron, Tennyson, Edison, Tesla, Semmelweis, Horace Wells, Darwin, Spencer, and Freud. This is sure to be a wide-ranging talk, with mention of many familiar ideas, objects, and people.

Mr. Koch is an Associate Professor of History at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport. Though a wide-ranging historian, his specialty areas are the Civil War and Native American History. He has worked for national historical and natural sites, promoting the nation's physical and historical heritage, and has also lectured for organizations across the country and in Europe on such topics as Native Americans before 1492, Darwin, Western Sciences, Civil War Battles, Politics in the Civil War, Medicine in the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln's life and political activities, and Slavery and the American Experience, as well as specialized presentations on the Gettysburg National Cemetery, the Battle of Gettysburg, and Connecticut in the Civil War.

Our business meetings begin at 10, and our speakers are scheduled for 10:30. No Charge, and No Reservations are required. For additional information, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558; bgsesq@gmail.com. See our website greenwichrma.org.