

can be done. The ground of cheapening has scarcely been scratched. Let us break the leaden collar and you will see a brainy competition that will show them what real competition is. . . . [Prices] must go down 50 to 75% lower than now . . . and we will make a great profit.”

Among the assistants trained personally by Edison were Henry Ford, who created the automobile industry, and Frank J. Sprague. Sprague worked with Edison on electric trains,

then formed a new company led by the Philadelphian Edward Johnson; they developed the electric subways, the elevators, and many basic electric industrial tools.

The Edison companies, like all the great American industries, were usurped by Morgan and related British-approved financiers. No significant new technology is attributable to those financiers, to Wall Street, or to the “magic of the marketplace.”

## Bibliography and acknowledgments

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Many of the facts presented in this study are quite widely known, but they are not thought to be especially significant. Perhaps this may be attributed to the brain-death typical of academia, as much as to historians’ Anglophilia or other prejudice.

Thomas Edison is a good case in point. Virtually every standard Edison biography mentions that a certain Prof. George F. Barker was Edison’s science adviser and that he asked Edison to invent the electric light. And most biographies note that a certain Edward H. Johnson was Edison’s best friend and business manager. But no biography really inquires into who these people were, where they came from, or what was on their minds.

A large volume of correspondence involving Edison and these two men, a vast array of Edison’s notebooks and other treasures, are in the Thomas A. Edison papers, which are now available on microfilm at major libraries.

Some of the research for this article was done in the Duke of Bridgewater papers at Salford University, Salford, England; Matthew Boulton papers, Birmingham City Archives, Birmingham, England; Henry C. Carey papers, Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadelphia; William J. Palmer papers, Pennsylvania State Library, Harrisburg; Wharton Barker papers, Library of Congress, Washington; records of the 1837 rebellion (for Edison’s father), National Library, Ottawa, Canada; and the George F. Barker papers, University of Pennsylvania archives, Philadelphia.

Some sources readers may find particularly useful:

Ellis L. Armstrong, ed., *History of Public Works in*

*the United States, 1776-1976* (Chicago: American Public Works Association, 1976). Many interesting facts are presented, but it is lacking the necessary history of public policy.

Robert V. Bruce, *The Launching of Modern American Science, 1846-1876* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1987). This contains useful facts about Alexander D. Bache’s “Lazzaroni” grouping, but Bruce doesn’t have a clue about the philosophy, politics, or scientific method of his characters.

Henry C. Carey, *Principles of Social Science*, 1858, reprint (New York: Augustus M. Kelley, 1963). Lincoln would certainly have read this three-volume work, widely circulated just prior to the Civil War.

Anton Chaitkin, *Treason in America, from Aaron Burr to Averell Harriman* (New York: Campaigner Publications, Inc., 1985).

G. Waldo Dunnington, *Carl Friedrich Gauss: Titan of Science* (New York: Exposition Press, 1955).

Joseph Henry, “Eulogy on Prof. Alexander Dallas Bache,” in *Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1870).

H. Graham Lowry, *How the Nation Was Won: America’s Untold Story 1630-1754* (Washington, D.C.: Executive Intelligence Review, 1988).

Merle M. Odgers, *Alexander Dallas Bache* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1947).

Allen Salisbury, *The Civil War and the American System: America’s Battle with Britain, 1860-1876*, 1978, reprint (Washington, D.C.: Executive Intelligence Review, 1995). Henry Carey’s work is excerpted and placed excellently in context.

Nancy Spannaus and Christopher White, *The Political Economy of the American Revolution* (New York: Campaigner Publications, Inc., 1977); to be reprinted in 1996 by Executive Intelligence Review. Many extracts from America’s founding nationalists.

Since such historical figures as Franklin, Hamilton, and Lincoln acted on philosophical grounds which are today considered incorrect or dangerous, their own writings should be read in preference to most secondary works about them, which often range from pointless to deceitful.