

***The Book of Charlie: Wisdom from the Remarkable American Life of a 109-Year-Old Man* by David von Drehle**

Most of the book focuses on the remarkable swath of changes that Charlie White lived through, as he survived more than a century with grace and resilience, passing from growing up with a grandfather who was a Confederate scout in the Civil War to being a practicing physician in the Space Age and beyond. The author had met White as his neighbor, and gradually grew to realize what a treasure of wisdom the retired doctor represented. Thinking that his own children and grandchildren would face ever more rapidly accelerating change, von Drehle sets out to find the advice and wisdom that Charlie White might have learned to see him through, hoping to share it with young people.

I enjoyed getting to know Charlie through the many people who were lucky enough to meet him, but I also enjoyed the look back through the decades, at the national and world events that occurred while Charlie got on with his life. Life was often tough, but his attitude helped him through, optimistically Stoic in many situations. Those two views don't seem to go together, but in the view of Charlie White they did. I wish I could have met him!