



# National History Club

## *Newsletter and Forum*



Spring 2005

For Secondary Students of History

Issue VI

## The Expanding Future of the Past

An Historian's Mailbag: © 2005  
**David Hackett Fischer**, Author of  
*Washington's Crossing* [2005 Pulitzer Prize  
in History]

In the past few years, every publishing season has brought us a bumper crop of books on the founders of the American Republic. These writings are being read in surprising numbers. Works of scholarship with quiet jackets and restrained titles in eighteenth century script have risen high on the best seller lists, above the flood of day-glo diet books, ghost-written celebrity memoirs, political exposés, and dark prophecies of impending doom.

A few years ago, Thomas Jefferson was the center of attention. Then in 2001, it was John and Abigail Adams. In 2002-03, Benjamin Franklin moved to center stage. In 2004-05, it has been George Washington. From June 2004 to January 2005, web sellers reported no fewer than 31 "new releases" of books on George Washington. Eleven were children's books. Ten were new editions of older works, even long-forgotten biographies of Washington by Woodrow Wilson and Henry Cabot Lodge. Two were volumes in the indispensable *Papers of George Washington* from the University Press of Virginia. Five were new works of original scholarship.

One wonders why—why so much interest in Washington and the founders, and history just now? Having recently published one of these books, I receive many e-mails and letters which are full of clues. They indicate (despite statements to the contrary) that serious history has

many strong constituencies in America today, and they are rapidly expanding.

One group who writes to me are people who have long had a serious interest in history. In childhood they were taken to historic sites. In college they majored in history. In adulthood their interest in history has grown stronger and deeper. Thousands belong to reenacting groups. Many more are reached by the history channels on cable television, and the history films that are flowing out of Hollywood. The numbers are rising. History majors and course enrollments are increasing as more students are multi-majoring, and one of their majors is something historical. Reenacting groups are expanding. The history channels have multiplied on our cable system. A growing proportion of high-quality films have historical subjects, and treat history with increasing respect. All of these trends testify to growing numbers of history-buffs, of which I happen to be one.

Other readers come at history in another way. Much of my mail comes from people who are interested in family history, or some other personal connection to historical events. They write about their ancestors, or about artifacts that they own, or towns where they live. One man wrote about two revolutionary-war cannon balls that were embedded in the stone wall of an old house. He wanted to know how they got there. This constituency is growing at a very rapid rate. One indicator is the huge expansion of interest in genealogy. Another is the increasing linkage between genealogy and history. As more Americans are of mixed ancestry, problems of identity become

more complex, and are often cast in historical terms.

A third constituency also appears in my e-mail. These are people who work in knowledge-industries. Some are in the traditional professions; others in new fields that expanded with the digital revolution. They tended not to major in history, but their interest has grown in maturity as they seek to make sense of a changing world. Every day they deal with complexity, and their work demands rigorous thinking. They do not want their history to be dumbed down, and they demand that it be smart, solidly-based, and thoughtful. They have little interest in historiography, which for them is the shadow of the thing, rather than the thing itself. They are appalled by the rigid ideologies of the academic left and the political right. They want their history to have balance, maturity and judgment. Most of all they want history to have the large meaning and generous spirit that they find in the founders. There are millions of these people in knowledge-based callings throughout America today, and they are multiplying rapidly. When something serious catches their eye, they buy history books in surprising numbers. But commercial publishers and academic presses have not served them well.

A fourth group of readers write about questions of another kind. They have a deep interest in large ethical problems that are increasingly urgent to them today, problems of right and wrong in public discourse, and questions about moral values.

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They worry about where we are heading, about the strength of our free institutions, about the quality of leadership, and the seriousness of our elections. The American founders are deeply interesting to them, more so than ever, because of the problems of our age.

These expanding constituencies overlap with many others. The base for history is very broad, and growing broader. But not all Americans feel themselves to be part of it. Many people in the United States have no interest in history. More than a few have a positive aversion to the subject. The patterns here are not clear to me, but age is clearly a factor. So is class, ethnicity, and region. Many Americans have always believed that history is an alien thing that has happened to other people but not to themselves.

All of this poses hard problems for history writers and history teachers. One problem is how to reach people who have no interest in history—how to persuade them that nations without a sense of history are like those who have lost their memory. Not knowing the past, they have no idea who they are in the present, or what they should do for the future. We have not found a way to reach these people, and much of our popular culture carries them in another direction.

We have also another problem, about how to serve the many expanding constituencies for history. Much of the teaching and writing in academe does not speak to them, and is not up to the level of their intellectual interest and urgent concern. Here is an opportunity for those of us who care about these things. The expanding future of history has never been brighter than it is today.

~ **David Hackett Fischer** is the Warren Professor of History at Brandeis University.

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## Welcome New Chapters

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Aspen High School (Aspen, Colorado)  
Assumption High School (Davenport, Iowa)  
Bartram Trail High School (Jacksonville, Florida)  
Benilde-St. Margaret's School (St. Louis Park, Minnesota)  
Calallen High School (Corpus Christi, Texas)\*  
Calallen Middle School (Corpus Christi, Texas)\*  
Calvert Hall College High School (Baltimore, Maryland)  
Clarendon High School (Clarendon, Texas)\*  
Copperas Cove Junior High School (Copperas Cove, Texas)\*  
Creekwood Middle School (Kingwood, Texas)\*  
Crowley Middle School (Fort Worth, Texas)\*  
Deerpark Middle School (Austin, Texas)\*  
DeLay Middle School (Lewisville, Texas)\*  
Dobson High School (Mesa, Arizona)  
East Haven High School (East Haven, Connecticut)  
Eisenhower High School (Houston, Texas)\*  
Eustace Middle School (Eustace, Texas)\*  
Forest Hills High School (Forest Hills, New York)  
Fort Stockton Middle & High School (Fort Stockton, Texas)\*  
Franklin Academy (Wake Forest, North Carolina)  
Fredericksburg Middle School (Fredericksburg, Texas)\*  
Gentry Junior High School (Baytown, Texas)\*  
Governor Dummer Academy (Byfield, Massachusetts)  
Hallsville High School (Hallsville, Texas)\*  
H.F. Stevens Middle School (Crowley, Texas)\*  
Hill-McCloy High School (Montrose, Michigan)  
Hopewell Middle School (Round Rock, Texas)\*  
Hutchinson Junior High School (Lubbock, Texas)\*  
Indian Springs Middle School (Keller, Texas)\*  
Jean Ribault Senior High School (Jacksonville, Florida)  
JP Elder Middle School (Forth Worth, Texas)\*

Lapoynor Independent School District (Larue, Texas)\*  
Leander Middle School (Leander, Texas)\*  
Marshall Junior High School (Marshall, Texas)\*  
McMichael Middle School (Nacogdoches, Texas)\*  
Monta Vista High School (Cupertino, California)  
Moore Magnet Middle School (Tyler, Texas)\*  
Mount Vernon Intermediate School (Mount Vernon, Texas)\*  
New Summerfield Jr. High School (New Summerfield, Texas)\*  
North Garland High School (Garland, Texas)\*  
Northside Urban Pathways (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)  
Nimitz High School (Irving, Texas)\*  
Nixon-Smilely High School (Nixon, Texas)\*  
O.L. Slaton Junior High School (Lubbock, Texas)\*  
Pearce Middle School (Austin, Texas)\*  
Pineywoods Community Academy (Lufkin, Texas)\*  
Plain Dealing Md./Sr. High School (Plain Dealing, Louisiana)  
Provo High School (Provo, Utah)  
Pueblo West High School (Pueblo West, Colorado)  
Riverwood Middle School (Kingwood, Texas)\*  
Rutgers Preparatory School (Somerset, New Jersey)  
San Diego High School (San Diego, Texas)\*  
Sartartia Middle School (Sugar Land, Texas)\*  
S.C. Lee Junior High School (Copperas Cove, Texas)\*  
Toms River High School South (Toms River, New Jersey)  
Truman Middle School (Grand Prairie, Texas)\*  
Wayne Valley High School (Wayne, New Jersey)  
Young Middle School (Marshall, Texas)\*  
Zespol Szkol Zawodowych (Opole, Poland)

\* Denotes member of Junior Historians of Texas. More information about this group can be found on Page 10.

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# Chapter Activities

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Here is the latest information on what chapters have been doing over the past few months. E-mail addresses of the chapter Advisors are listed in order for other clubs to contact them if they have questions or seek additional details regarding a club's activities. Clubs are encouraged to communicate with each other to explore new history-related opportunities.

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★ The **Adams Central History Club** (IN) had three guest speakers visit their club recently. School Superintendent **Mike Pettibone** spoke on the subject of history in general, **Linda Sprunger** discussed African culture, and **Jeff McCullough** talked about World War II, as well as shared artifacts from this war...The club has added "archons" (student leaders) this year to make their meetings and activities run smoothly. An archon was a chief magistrate in ancient Athens...The highlight of the year for the group was a chance to hear President Bush speak at the University of Notre Dame in March...Contact: **Carolyn McCammon** ([cmccammo@r8esc.k12.in.us](mailto:cmccammo@r8esc.k12.in.us))

★ **Alexander Dreyfoos School of the Arts** (FL) has had several guest speakers over the course of the year: one being from the Civil War Round Table (<http://hometown.aol.com/gordonkwok/cwrtlist.html>), the second being a veteran from World War II, and the final person speaking on the history of Palm Beach County...The group has been holding monthly history film gatherings in which they debunk the history myths and sort out the facts from fiction...Contact: **Sara Stout** ([stouts@palmbeach.k12.fl.us](mailto:stouts@palmbeach.k12.fl.us))

★ In April, **Aspen High School's History Club** (CO) paid a visit to the Aspen Historical Society (<http://www.aspenhistory.org/>) for a tour of the facility and heard about the projects the historical society is coordinating to preserve the local history of Aspen...Their spring project involves interviewing veterans from the local area who fought in a major war, such as World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. These recorded interviews will then be submitted as part of the "Veterans History Project," developed by the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress (<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/>)...Several club members traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in a week-long seminar sponsored by the Close Up Foundation (<http://www.closeup.org/>). Students visited many monuments and museums—among them the Holocaust Museum (<http://www.ushmm.org>) and Smithsonian Museum of American History (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/>), where they viewed the new exhibit on the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision...Contact: **Karen Green** ([kgreen@aspenk12.net](mailto:kgreen@aspenk12.net))

★ **Benilde-St. Margaret's Chapter** (MN) read and discussed the book *Gates of Fire* by Stephen Pressfield, which is on the battle of Thermopylae. This battle took place in Greece in 480 B.C.E., and saw 300 Spartan knights and their allies face the enormous forces of Xerxes, King of Persia...The club also invited their entire school to a showing of the movie *Attila* and designed t-shirts for this year's members with the slogan "The History Club—Because No One Cares What's Happening Now."...Contact: **Kathy Green** ([kgreen@bsm.pvt.k12.mn.us](mailto:kgreen@bsm.pvt.k12.mn.us))

★ On March 19, **Cactus Shadows High School** (AZ) trekked to the Renaissance Festival (<http://www.royalfaires.com/ARIZONA/>) to witness a medieval arts and crafts fair, a jousting tournament, and costumed villagers, as well as a chance to dine on turkey legs in King Henry's kitchen...Congratulations to Advisor **Mark Sweeney** ([msweeney@ccusd93.org](mailto:msweeney@ccusd93.org)) who has been selected as a White House History Fellow, and will be examining the relationship between the presidency and the press and the evolution of the White House press conference.

★ The **Calallen High School** (Chapter #472) and **Middle School** (Chapter #411) (TX) clubs of the Junior Historians hosted a Pioneer Days celebration at the beginning of May. Each year they hold this event for 900 elementary school students, where they depict what life was like in the 1800s through chores, games, and crafts...Contact: **Sally Robeau** ([srobo@infionline.net](mailto:srobo@infionline.net))

★ **Collins Hill's History Club** (GA) has spent the year working on a variety of different projects. Twice a month they debate different historical topics. The debates have ranged from the most influential presidential election of all time to the worst epidemic in the world's history...The students highly recommend the book *Ghost Soldiers*, which chronicles the rescue of Allied prisoners from the Bataan Death March in World War II...Seniors from the club will be wearing cords at graduation to recognize their membership over the past years. They include: **Juan Amador, Jesse Craft, Michelle Holland, Gregg Jemo, Derek Jones, Edward Robinson, and Tony Sunjic**...Contact: **Terrae Fogarty** ([terrae\\_fogarty@gwinnett.k12.ga.us](mailto:terrae_fogarty@gwinnett.k12.ga.us))

★ Congratulations to **Meghan McHale, Courtney Keller, Adam Bechtel, Cody Fulton, and Jackie Kintzer** from **Conrad Weiser High School** (PA) for winning the Best Local History Award with their video presentation of Robesonia, Pennsylvania's 150th anniversary at the regional National History Day contest. The documentary focused primarily on the memoirs of lifetime Robesonians, and through group interviews, these

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residents were able to share their memories with the younger generation. The topics discussed included church, school, sports, and the railroad; all elements of the town that have remained relevant throughout the ages. The students reported that through these interviews they quickly discovered that Robesonia is not the drab town that they thought it to be...Contact: **Ann Schmidt** ([a\\_schmidt@conradweiser.org](mailto:a_schmidt@conradweiser.org))

★ **Dover High School** (DE) has continued their after school theater with such showings as *Marcus Garvey* for black history month and *Iron Jawed Angels* for women's history month...The group heard **Peter Gibbon** speak after school about World War I era heroes. Dr. Gibbon is the author of *A Call to Heroism*, which explores the heroic ideals that are a part of our nation...Contact: **Ray Braverman** ([rbraver@capital.k12.de.us](mailto:rbraver@capital.k12.de.us))

★ **Franklin Academy's History Club** (NC) attended a Holocaust presentation, viewed part of a PBS movie on Auschwitz at it, and then had a question and answer session with a few Holocaust survivors...Plans are being formed for an overnight trip to Colonial Williamsburg (<http://www.history.org/>), a 301-acre site where hundreds of restored and historically furnished buildings show what life was like during the 18th-century in Britain's wealthiest and most populous outpost of their empire in the New World...Contact: **Becky Alley** ([alleyb@franklinacademy.org](mailto:alleyb@franklinacademy.org))

★ At the **Frederick Douglass Academy** (NY), the club meets on Saturdays. They have been involved in an array of interesting activities—ranging from visiting the Alexander Hamilton exhibit at the New York Historical Society (<http://www.nyhistory.org/>), going on a walking tour of Lower Manhattan to visit Trinity Church and the burial site of Alexander Hamilton, and attending two events organized by the Junior Historians Forum, which is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute (<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/>). At these events, students heard two acclaimed historians—**Oliver Horton** (professor at George Washington University) and **Edward Ayers** (author of *American Passages: A History of the United States*)—discuss the Civil War period...Contact: **Adam Stevens** ([adamnstevens2@yahoo.com](mailto:adamnstevens2@yahoo.com))

★ **Glasgow Middle School's Chapter** (VA) spent President's Day weekend at Mount Vernon, exploring the home of George Washington. Before the trip, students had a preparatory discussion about the responsibilities of presidents and engaged in some learning activities designed to promote a deeper understanding of our first President...In March, the group explored the changes in governance as society has evolved. As part of this,

Congressman **John Duncan** of Tennessee came from the Capitol Building to speak about his nearly twenty years experience in the House of Representatives...Upcoming events and speakers will focus on the Civil War, and the club will be making a trip to the Bull Run battlefield (<http://www.nps.gov/mana/home.htm>)...Contact: **Christy Loop** ([Christine.Loop@fcps.edu](mailto:Christine.Loop@fcps.edu))

★ Students at **Gorham High School** (ME) have been working to prepare their original exhibit "The View of the Vanquished" for display in the main lobby of the high school. Members **Tony Kourinos, Sarah Popovics, Samantha Jones, Antoine Cadot-Wood, James Kane, Maia Fleming, Maura Bradley, Kathleen Masterson, Sarah Roberts, and Brietta Hopkins** have researched the Ottoman Empire and Eastern Europe, the Aztecs and Incans, the Crusades, and the Irish struggle with England...Contact: **Rachael Grady** ([Rachael\\_Grady@gorham.k12.me.us](mailto:Rachael_Grady@gorham.k12.me.us))

★ In February, the **Hastings Senior High School History Club** (NE) took a tour of the six story Dutton-Lainson Victory Building (<http://www.adamshistory.org/index.html>), a landmark in downtown Hastings that was constructed during America's involvement in World War I. The Dutton-Lainson Company honored their visit by taking a group photo on the roof, the first time they have taken a group photo up there since an employee group photo in the 1930s...To mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, the group has been reading and discussing books associated with the war. During their April and May meetings, they were visited by guest speakers who served in the war, as well as a local historian who presents lectures on the Naval Ammunition Depot, which is located right outside the city and manufactured munitions during World War II and the Korean War...Contact: **Robert Kerr** ([rkerr@esu9.org](mailto:rkerr@esu9.org))

★ **Hopewell Middle School** (Chapter #834, JH) (TX) went on a couple of local field trips—first to the Chisholm Trail (<http://www.sundancerswest.com/texaschisolmtrail.htm>) and then to historic downtown in Round Rock. They documented the field trips by taking pictures with the school's digital camera and have added these pictures to the club's ongoing archival photo collection. Future field trips planned include visits to the Texas Ranger Museum (<http://www.texasranger.org/>) in Waco and the Texas State Capitol when it is in session...Students have also continued discovering more information about their local history in Round Rock using resources such as the Texas Handbook on-line, Round Rock history books, interviews, and oral histories...Contact: **Ron Goins** ([Charles\\_Goins@roundrockisd.org](mailto:Charles_Goins@roundrockisd.org))

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★ **Irondequoit High School's Chapter** (NY) sponsored an after school field trip to the downtown theater in February to view "Hotel Rwanda." This movie tells the true-life story of Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager who housed over a 1,000 Tutsi refugees from being slaughtered by the Hutu militia in Rwanda...To celebrate women's history month, the club went to the Susan B. Anthony House (<http://www.susanbanthonyhouse.org/>) to view the home of this legendary civil rights leader...Early in April, students and teachers attended a Lincoln Conference at the Rochester Institute of Technology to hear scholars speak, view Lincoln and Civil War era artifacts, and see a re-enactment of The Gettysburg Address...Contact: **Joyce Nagle** ([Joyce\\_Nagle@westiron.monroe.edu](mailto:Joyce_Nagle@westiron.monroe.edu))

★ **Jean Ribault High School** (FL) visited the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens (<http://www.cummer.org>) on March 15 to explore Greek, Roman, Renaissance, and modern American artworks. They got to critique the paintings during the trip and walk through the gardens of the St. John's River...A few weeks ago, chapter members took another field trip to Jacksonville's 13th annual World of Nations Celebration to experience the rich cultural traditions of African, Asian, European, and South American nations...Contact: **Henry Seng** ([henryseng@gmail.com](mailto:henryseng@gmail.com))

★ At **Lowndes High School** (GA) the War on Terror is closely followed due to the many U.S. Air Force personnel that reside in the community. Sergeant **Brian Hill**, a surviving member of the rescue squad from Operation Anaconda, spoke to club members. Operation Anaconda began March 1, 2002 in the mountainous Shah-i-Kot region in eastern Afghanistan, and was designed to root out the remaining Taliban and Al Qaida fighters entrenched along ridges and mountainside caves. At the conclusion of the fighting, a total of eight American servicemen had been killed and 82 wounded in action...Contact: **Mike White** ([Lakelandga@aol.com](mailto:Lakelandga@aol.com))

★ **McKeel Academy's History Guild** (FL) undertook two projects this year—sponsoring a school wide history fair and digitizing all the issues of the Polk County Historical Association Quarterly. The history fair consisted of middle and high school students who entered their projects in four different categories in hopes of placing 1st or 2nd and advancing to the Polk County history fair. 17 students advanced to the state fair competition with their outstanding entries. The members have been diligently working on the Quarterly project since last August, after forming a partnership with the Polk County Historical Association in May 2004...Contact: **Dennis Dill** ([dilld@mckeelacademy.com](mailto:dilld@mckeelacademy.com))

★ Please take a look at **Millbrook High School's** (NC) February issue of *Bridges Newsletter* at <http://mhs.wcpss.net/academics/poling/index.htm>. This issue highlights important international issues involving Afghanistan, Iraq, the Sudan, and Vietnam...A few weeks ago, the group spent a few days in Washington, D.C. on their annual trip. Students and chaperones enjoyed informative presentations from renowned foreign policy experts at the U.S. Institute of Peace (<http://www.usip.org/>), heard Vietnam veteran and retired State Department Officer **David Rabadan** share his thoughts on honor, service, and sacrifice, and visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier...Contact: **Lindy Poling** ([lgpoling@juno.com](mailto:lgpoling@juno.com))

★ **Kevin Zhou**, President of the Monte Vista History Club (CA), reports that after studying World War II during their first semester, members have been exploring the Civil War, World War I, and the Progressive Era. They have held discussions on the Lincoln-Douglas Debates and the implications of the Treaty of Versailles. Two movies which they have viewed are "Glory" (which pertains to the all-black 54th Massachusetts Regiment) and "All Quiet on the Western Front" (the story of a young German soldier during World War I)...Contact: **Shelley Cummins** ([scummins@mhigh.net](mailto:scummins@mhigh.net))

★ The **Twin Elms History Club** at **Ottawa-Glandorf High School** (OH) has continued publishing their own chapter Newsletter and working with the Putnam County Genealogical Society (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ohputnam/gensoc.htm>) to chart and update the Society's records of graves at the local cemeteries...Additionally, members held a History Jeopardy Contest for the entire school as a fund-raiser for the club. The final round was held in the school auditorium and was recorded and shown on the school television program...Contact: **Troy Yant** ([yantt@oghs.noacsc.org](mailto:yantt@oghs.noacsc.org))

★ **Pineywoods Academy** (Chapter #851, JH) (TX) has been working on the Dunbar Negro School project, which originally started out as a graduate school oral history project for their Advisor. Members were interested in finding out more about the segregated school, which closed its doors for good in 1972. The building, which once housed K-12 grades for the black community, now serves as an elementary school. The students first wrote about the history of the school, and have been in the process of interviewing its former students. These former students range from their early 40s to one that is 100 years old...Contact: **Bobby Conrick** ([bconrick@pineywoodsacademy.org](mailto:bconrick@pineywoodsacademy.org))

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★ **Randolph High School's Chapter** (NJ) has grown into one of the most popular clubs at their school. Trips are a big part of their activities and a few months ago they traveled to Philadelphia to see the Liberty Bell, Independence National Park (which includes Independence Hall, Congress Hall, and other sites), and the National Constitution Center (<http://www.constitutioncenter.org/>)...Recently, the club spent three days in Boston participating in a Revolutionary War tour...Please check out their website at <http://www.rhssocialstudiesclub.tk/>...Contact: **Sattik Deb** ([staticd@hotmail.com](mailto:staticd@hotmail.com))

★ The **Riverwood Minutemen** (Chapter #837, JH) (TX) journeyed to the Houston Museum of Natural Science (<http://www.hmns.org>) to see the Dead Sea Scrolls and to the Forbidden Gardens (<http://www.forbidden-gardens.com/>) in Katy to learn more about the history of China...Next year, the group is going to try to put on a historical performance for the entire school titled "Abandon Ship." The play will be about the sinking of the *USS Indianapolis* during World War II, which was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine two weeks before the end of the war. Only 316 men were rescued out of the crew of 1,199...Contact: **Sharon Dews** ([Sharon.Dews@humble.k12.tx.us](mailto:Sharon.Dews@humble.k12.tx.us))

★ One of our newer chapters is the **Rutgers Preparatory School** (NJ), which has embarked on several activities since it was formed this past January. A "Today in History" program was established during their school's morning announcements. Two or three days a week, a club member gives a brief talk about the historic events that occurred that day and what the significance of each one is...Two trips that they have gone on are to Medieval Times, where they got to enjoy a medieval feast, and to the Library Science Center to view "Mysteries of the Pyramids"...Contact: **Tim Cohen** ([cohen@rutgersprep.org](mailto:cohen@rutgersprep.org))

★ Congratulations to the **Vaquero Historical Society at San Diego High School** (Chapter #848, JH) (TX) for winning the outstanding first year chapter award at the state Junior Historian conference in Galveston. Club members had to endure a five and a half hour drive by van to the conference, but they report it was well worth it as they got to mingle with other high school students and take a tour of NASA (<http://www.spacecenter.org/about.html>)...Contact: **Lois Jaimes** ([ljaimes@sdisd.esc2.net](mailto:ljaimes@sdisd.esc2.net))

★ Our first club in Illinois, the **Southwestern High School History Club**, meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month...On April 19, members attended the

formal dedication of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (<http://www.alplm.org/home.html>)...The group is also planning a history themed trivia night with the hope that they can raise enough funds for a summer trip to Boston...Check out their website at <http://www.piasabirds.com/teacherpages/mhasquin/nhc.html>...Contact: **Matt Hasquin** ([mhasquin@piasabirds.net](mailto:mhasquin@piasabirds.net))

★ **St. John's High School** (MA) recently enjoyed a visit from **Melinda Feeney** of the Haudenasaunee Confederation. She explained to the students the history of the Confederation, played recordings of music, and was dressed in a historically accurate beaded and decorated cloth outfit worn by Mohawk women in the 18th century. Some of the members were surprised to see her wearing cloth instead of buckskin, but the Mohawk nation was the first of the Haudenasaunees to trade with Europeans and thus wore cloth garments very early after contact between the two groups...Contact: **Michelle Dhand** ([mdhanda@stjohnshigh.org](mailto:mdhanda@stjohnshigh.org))

★ **St. Martin's Historical Society** (MS) just took part in their annual trip to New Orleans to visit the D-Day Museum (<http://www.ddaymuseum.org/>) and the Cabildo, a museum that is part of the Jackson Square Complex (<http://www.jackson-square.com/index.htm>)...Members will again wear red, white, and blue honor cords for graduation...Contact: **Dieter Miller** ([dmiller@jaco.k12.ms.us](mailto:dmiller@jaco.k12.ms.us))

★ The **United Nations International School's** (NY) first project this year was an oral history project on New York City. Members have been doing field work and conducting oral research in such areas as Stuyvesant Town, the Lower East Side, York-town, and the East and West Bronx. Each week, the club holds a meeting in which two groups do mini-presentations of their projects, while their peers offer constructive suggestions and ideas on how to further enhance their work...Contact: **Tom Siefing** ([tsiefing@unis.org](mailto:tsiefing@unis.org))

★ Earlier in this year, the **Williams Bay History Club** (WI) visited "The Village of the Silent" at a local cemetery to learn about the historical importance of graveyards. In addition, they decided to purchase a bronze plaque for the founder of the village, Captain Israel Williams, a War of 1812 veteran, to mark his gravesite, since his tombstone was deteriorating...Best wishes to the fourteen members who will be traveling to Germany, Italy, and the Swiss Alps in July to experience hands-on history...Contact: **Deb Soplanda** ([bdsoplanda@elknet.net](mailto:bdsoplanda@elknet.net))

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# History Student of the Year

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We would like to recognize the following recipients of their chapter's "History Student of the Year." Each recipient receives a copy of David Hackett Fischer's Pulitzer Prize winning *Washington's Crossing* with his/her achievement noted on a bookplate on the inside cover. This award was co-sponsored with George Washington's Mount Vernon (<http://www.mountvernon.org/>). These are the recipients as the Newsletter goes to press. A complete list will be put on our website, [www.tcr.org](http://www.tcr.org).

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Abraham Lincoln High School - Aleksey Shats  
Adams Central High School - Paul Fisher  
Alexander Dreyfoos School of the Arts - Clara Crabtree  
Archbishop Carroll High School - Monique Merino  
Aspen High School - Naomi McDougall Jones  
Assumption High School - Josh Bacon  
B.B. Comer Memorial High School - T.J. Bassett  
Benilde-St. Margaret's School - Christopher Milroy  
Briarcrest Christian School - Blake Smith  
Cactus Shadows High School - Ashley Zimmerman  
Calallen High School - Sarah O'Leary  
Calvert Hall College High School - Josh Barnes  
Collins Hill High School - Jesse Craft  
Conrad Weiser High School - Elizabeth Sperry  
Cypress Bay High School - Jennifer Kenneally  
DeLay Middle School - Kristina Brantley  
Dover High School - Ashley Crump  
Dulaney High School - Parker Schnell  
Dunbar High School - David Tao  
Franklin Academy - Caitlin Black  
Frederick Douglass Academy - Brittany Smith  
Glasgow Middle School - Evan McMurray  
Gorham High School - Antoine Cadot-Wood  
Great Neck North High School - Elizabeth Tarras  
Hastings Senior High School - McKay Knight  
Heritage Christian School - Grace Woodson  
Hill-McCloy High School - Tiffany Whittaker  
Hopewell High School - Tristan Patrick  
Howe Military School - Joshua Pelfrey  
Indian Springs Middle School - Cody Bland  
Jean Ribault High School - Morgan McCoy  
Katy High School - Rosie Marsh  
Leander Middle School - Erika Lai  
Lookout Mountain Homeschoolers - Barbara McClay  
Lowndes High School - Holley Coffey  
Lynn Classical High School - Sarah Vilaylak  
Manlius Pebble Hill School - Miles King  
Marshfield High School - Caitlin Greene

Marshall Junior High School - Josh Crandell and Lavyn Cupples  
McAuley High School - Alexandra E. Ogden  
McMichael Middle School - Emily Middlebrook  
McKeel Academy - Olga Balderas & Zachary Teglieria  
Memphis University School - Clint Cowan  
Millbrook High School - Claudia Ortiz  
Moore Magnet Middle School - Stephanie Gurrola  
Mount Vernon Intermediate School - Daniel Hicks  
Nimitz High School - Sneha Idiculla  
Nixon-Smiley High School - Chris Parks & Tai-Tunisia Harris  
North Garland High School - Alvin Lam, Ha Thai, Justin Thompson & Jamila Phillips  
Ottawa-Glandorf High School - Jacqueline Kruse  
Park High School - Jaime Anderson  
Pineywoods Academy - Ashley Travelbee  
Pittston Area High School - Kory Kish  
Plainedge High School - Matt Keller  
Price T. Young Middle School - Katie Thompson  
Princeton High School - Emily Greenberg  
Randolph High School - Mike Monacelli  
Ravenscroft School - Katherine Turek  
Richard Montgomery High School - Steven Siegel  
Salesian High School - Kenneth Ciardullo  
San Diego High School - Jacqueline Garcia  
Santa Catalina School - Hillary Smith  
Sartartia Middle School - Amanda Schulte  
Shorecrest Preparatory School - Stephan Meylan  
South Portland High School - Ben Braley, Ben Card & Tim Cahill  
Southwestern High School - Blake McAfee  
Spotswood High School - Jill Dickinson  
St. John's High School - John Harrison  
St. John's Preparatory School - Jason Stigliano  
St. Martin High School - Brent Caldwell  
St. Mary's Episcopal School - Kirsi Tuomanen-Hill  
Suffern High School - Bryan Furman  
S.V. Marshall High School - Antionette Green  
The International School - Ali Ayaz Gajani  
Toms River High School South - Nisha Patel  
Truman Middle School - Joshua Red  
United Nations International School - Pavitra Mehta  
Warwick High School - Sarah Bourne  
Wayne Valley High School - Anthony Marzocca  
West Morris Central High School - Joseph Reidy  
Whitman-Hanson High School - Brendan Daley  
Williams Bay High School - Kyle Schryver  
Wilmington High School - Ashley Stamper



## Looking For Activities?



For those clubs seeking ideas for future plans, this section offers information about some of the Historical Societies, Presidential Libraries, and History Museums around the country. If you are interested in a particular Museum, please check out their website and then e-mail the Contact listed. Many thanks to all the Museums and Libraries that provided contact information. If you have additional ones to offer please let us know at [nasson@tcr.org](mailto:nasson@tcr.org) and they will be included in the Fall Newsletter. Also, for a complete list of Museum websites, please visit [www.tcr.org](http://www.tcr.org).

- **Arkansas State University Museum** (<http://museum.astate.edu/>) - Contact: **Lynda Medlock** ([lmedlock@astate.edu](mailto:lmedlock@astate.edu))
- **Maine Historical Society** (<http://www.mainehistory.org/>) - Contact: **Jane Foden** ([jfoden@mainehistory.org](mailto:jfoden@mainehistory.org))
- **Atlanta History Center** ([www.AtlantaHistoryCenter.com](http://www.AtlantaHistoryCenter.com)) - Contact: **Wesleigh Reaves** ([WReaves@AtlantaHistoryCenter.com](mailto:WReaves@AtlantaHistoryCenter.com))
- **Massachusetts Historical Society** (<http://www.masshist.org/welcome/>) - Contact: **Linda Smith Rhoads** ([lrhoads@masshist.org](mailto:lrhoads@masshist.org))
- **George Bush Presidential Library and Museum** (<http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu>) - Contact: **Brian Blake** ([brian.blake@nara.gov](mailto:brian.blake@nara.gov))
- **New Jersey Historical Society** (<http://www.jerseyhistory.org/>) - Contact: **Connie Jackson** ([CJackson@JerseyHistory.org](mailto:CJackson@JerseyHistory.org))
- **Churchill Centre** (<http://www.winstonchurchill.org>) - Contact: **Suzanne Sigman** ([s.sigman@comcast.net](mailto:s.sigman@comcast.net))
- **New York Historical Society** (<http://www.nyhistory.org/>) - Contact: **Anthony Napoli** ([napoli@gilderlehrman.org](mailto:napoli@gilderlehrman.org))
- **City Museum of Washington, DC** ([www.citymuseumdc.org](http://www.citymuseumdc.org)) - Contact: **Mychaelene Giampaoli** ([mgiampaoli@citymuseumdc.org](mailto:mgiampaoli@citymuseumdc.org))
- **Ohio Historical Society** (<http://www.ohiohistory.org>) - Contact: **Marilyn Davis** ([mdavis@ohiohistory.org](mailto:mdavis@ohiohistory.org))
- **Colorado Historical Society** (<http://www.coloradohistory.org/>) - Contact: **Martha Dyckes** ([martha.dyckes@chs.state.co.us](mailto:martha.dyckes@chs.state.co.us))
- **Historical Society of Pennsylvania** (<http://www.hsp.org/>) - Contact: **Kathryn E. Wilson** ([kwilson@hsp.org](mailto:kwilson@hsp.org))
- **Eisenhower Museum** (<http://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/>) - Contact: [eisenhower.library@nara.gov](mailto:eisenhower.library@nara.gov)
- **Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum** (<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/>) - **Jeffrey Urbin** ([Jeffrey.Urbin@nara.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Urbin@nara.gov))
- **Florida Historical Society** (<http://www.florida-historical-soc.org/>) - Contact: **Debra Wynne** ([wynne@flahistory.net](mailto:wynne@flahistory.net))
- **South Carolina Historical Society** (<http://www.schistory.org/>) - Contact: **Carey Lucas Nikonchuk** ([lucasc@schistory.org](mailto:lucasc@schistory.org))
- **U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum** ([www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org)) - Contact: **Dan Napolitano** ([DNapolitano@ushmm.org](mailto:DNapolitano@ushmm.org))
- **Tennessee State Museum** (<http://www.tnmuseum.org>) - Contact: [info@tnmuseum.org](mailto:info@tnmuseum.org)
- **Indiana Historical Society** (<http://www.indianahistory.org/>) - Contact: **Carrie Wood** ([cwood@indianahistory.org](mailto:cwood@indianahistory.org))
- **Texas Memorial Museum** (<http://www.tmm.utexas.edu/>) - Contact: **Dianne E. Folkert** ([def@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:def@mail.utexas.edu))
- **John F. Kennedy Library and Museum** ([www.jfklibrary.org/](http://www.jfklibrary.org/)) - Contact: [kennedy.library@nara.gov](mailto:kennedy.library@nara.gov)
- **Virginia Historical Society** ([www.vahistorical.org](http://www.vahistorical.org)) - Contact: **Maribeth Cowan** ([maribeth@vahistorical.org](mailto:maribeth@vahistorical.org))
- **Kansas Museum of History** ([www.kshs.org](http://www.kshs.org)) - Contact: **Bobbie Athon** ([BAthon@kshs.org](mailto:BAthon@kshs.org))
- **Wisconsin Historical Society** (<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/>) - Contact: **John Lemke** ([jwlemke@whs.wisc.edu](mailto:jwlemke@whs.wisc.edu))

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## » Test Your Knowledge «

Students from **Zespół Szkół Zawodowych** in Poland, our second international history club, recently held a competition where they answered U.S. and English history questions. Here are some of the questions. The answers are on Page 10.

- 1) Who formulated the theory of evolution as a result of his trip around the world?
  - A. Niels Bohr
  - B. Nicholas Copernicus
  - C. Charles Darwin
  - D. Sir Isaac Newton
- 2) What prime minister guided England during World War II?
  - A. George III
  - B. Anthony Eden
  - C. Winston Churchill
  - D. Margaret Thatcher
- 3) Name the American who became the first man to walk on the moon in 1969.
  - A. Neil Armstrong
  - B. John Glenn
  - C. Edward White
  - D. Buzz Aldrin
- 4) In what year did Christopher Columbus come to America for the first time?
  - A. 1492
  - B. 1501
  - C. 1498
  - D. 1486
- 5) Which king became the first Head of the Church of England?
  - A. Charles I
  - B. James II
  - C. Henry VIII
  - D. James I
- 6) What is the surname of the brothers who invented the airplane?
  - A. Ford
  - B. Wright
  - C. Boeing
  - D. Orville
- 7) Who was the American President who called for Polish independence in his Fourteen Points shortly after World War I?
  - A. Franklin D. Roosevelt
  - B. Warren Harding
  - C. Calvin Coolidge
  - D. Woodrow Wilson
- 8) On what date did the United Nations come into existence?
  - A. October 24, 1945
  - B. June 30, 1951
  - C. December 7, 1941
  - D. October 9, 1949
- 9) What Roman commander conquered part of Great Britain in the 1st century B.C.E.?
  - A. Constantine the Great
  - B. Augustus
  - C. Julius Caesar
  - D. Alexander the Great
- 10) Name the two cities in Japan that the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on to end World War II.
  - A. Hiroshima and Yokohama
  - B. Tokyo and Nagasaki
  - C. Hiroshima and Beijing
  - D. Hiroshima and Nagasaki

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## Junior Historians of Texas

The National History Club is happy to announce a new partnership with the **Junior Historians of Texas** to continue to promote the study of history among our nation's youth.

The Junior Historians of Texas organization has a long and proud heritage of promoting the learning of local, state, and other history. Founded in 1939 by the Texas State Historical Association under the leadership of noted historian Walter Prescott Webb, Junior Historian members have researched, written about, and presented a variety of projects on thousands of historical topics. Many chapters travel to sites of historical significance and take part in historical and preservation related activities in their communities. Thousands of Junior Historians have had their outstanding writing published in the organization's journal, the *Texas Historian*.

More information about the Junior Historians of Texas and a variety of materials are available for free on their website, located at <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/education/jh/index.html>...Contact: **Stephen S. Cure** ([sscure@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:sscure@mail.utexas.edu))

## NHC Support

The National History Club would like to thank the **Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History** for their generous matching grant, to help support operations during this year.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute (<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/>) was founded in 1994 to promote the study and love of American history. Gilder Lehrman's initiatives target audiences ranging from students to scholars to the general public. The Institute creates history-centered schools and academic research centers; organizes seminars and enrichment programs for educators; produces print and electronic publications and traveling exhibitions; and sponsors lectures by eminent historians.

As the number of history club chapters and members grows, it becomes increasingly difficult to cover the costs of printing our biannual Newsletter, attending conferences to disseminate information about our organization, and mailing various NHC materials. If any person or foundation would like to extend support to the National History Club, we would relish the chance to speak with you, and we hope that you will contact us.



## Chapter Spotlight



The subdued town of Port William, Ohio could not have been prepared for the attention that would arise regarding one of their very own, Gilbert Van Zandt. Born on December 20, 1851, Van Zandt was a mere ten years old when the civil war began in 1861. However, at this tender age, Van Zandt, also known as Little Gib, became one of the youngest to serve in the Union Army.

Enlistment of those under the age of eighteen was banned during the Civil War, but many ignored this order. At an enlistment rally in Port William, Ohio, Little Gib was paid fifty cents to beat his drum. Soon afterward, he was granted permission to enlist in the army alongside his father and schoolteacher. He and his father joined Company D of the 79th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Due to his small stature, Van Zandt's mother sewed him a uniform. His most memorable experience during the war was serving with William Tecumseh Sherman's army during its march to the sea, where he served as drummer for his regiment and delivered messages by way of his own horse. Drummers during the Civil War were used to instruct soldiers in their daily routines such as rising in the morning and meal times. They also relayed commands on the battlefield. According to The King's Royal Yorkers (<http://royalyorkers.ca/main.html>) "once the troops were deployed, vocal communication became very difficult so simple concepts such as 'advance,' 'retreat,' and 'commence firing,' could be expressed by specific tunes."

An Ohio historical marker is now located in Port William to honor the bravery of Little Gib. This is not the only recognition the boy soldier has received. Our history club at **Wilmington High School** (OH) has adopted the name of **The Gilbert Van Zandt History Club**.

 **Ashley Stamper**

Answers: 1-C, 2-C, 3-A, 4-A, 5-C, 6-B, 7-D, 8-A, 9-C, 10-D

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❖ *The Concord Review* ❖  
Varsity Academics®

For those students who have written a history research paper, we would like to suggest the idea of submitting it to *The Concord Review* for possible publication. This unique quarterly journal remains the only one in the world to publish the history papers of high school students. Over the past seventeen years, *The Concord Review* has published 682 essays from authors in 44 states and 33 other countries.

Students who submit essays for publication are eligible to be published in the next four issues of the journal, and have the opportunity of winning a **\$3,000 Ralph Waldo Emerson Prize** if their paper is printed in *The Concord Review*. Many of our authors have sent reprints of their papers with their college application materials, and they have gone on to Berkeley (6), Brown (20), Columbia (13), Dartmouth (11), Harvard (70), Princeton (36), Stanford (22), Yale (60), and a number of other fine institutions. **William R. Fitzsimmons**, Dean of Admissions at Harvard, has said “We have been happy to have reprints of essays published in *The Concord Review*, submitted by a number of our applicants over the years, to add to the information we consider in making admission decisions.”

History essays may be submitted, with a fee of \$40, to *The Concord Review*, on any historical topic—domestic or foreign, ancient or modern. For the \$40 fee, the author receives the next four issues of the journal. Each essay must be accompanied by a Submission Form, which can be found on our website at <http://www.tcr.org>.

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## NHC

### Membership Procedures

The **National History Club** was founded in March 2002 to promote the reading, writing, discussion, and enjoyment of history. There is no fee for a chapter to be granted a charter, as the NHC wants any school with a genuine interest in history to be part of our organization. We want to connect students of diverse backgrounds and varying abilities in schools across the country. We now have chapters in thirty-six states and two foreign countries, and there are over 4,600 students involved.

History clubs which join the NHC may be of several different kinds. Some may already be established, while others may be newly formed. Certain clubs will emphasize local history and site visits. Some will want to put their time into reading history books together and writing serious research papers. History clubs from the same region may even coordinate activities with each other. It is our plan to hold a National Convention in the coming years.

We provide members with a Newsletter twice a year, sharing information about club activities in chapters around the country. Schools looking to join the **National History Club** should send a letter on school stationery requesting chapter membership to Robert Nasson, Executive Director, along with the names of the students and the Advisor, as well as the Advisor’s e-mail address.

## History Club Pens

We have available National History Club pens for any club that may be interested in purchasing them. Each pen is a twist-action LaserGrip with solid brass construction and gold plated trim, and they come in either azure blue or burgundy.

Some clubs have purchased pens for induction ceremonies, while others have given them to graduating seniors to reward them for their service to their chapters. Clubs may even want to sell pens as a fund-raiser to support activities in the future.

If you have an interest in these please contact Robert Nasson at [nasson@tcr.org](mailto:nasson@tcr.org) for more information.



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### Contact Information:

Will Fitzhugh, Founder - [fitzhugh@tcr.org](mailto:fitzhugh@tcr.org)

Robert Nasson, Executive Director - [nasson@tcr.org](mailto:nasson@tcr.org)

730 Boston Post Road, Suite 24, Sudbury, MA 01776

800-331-5007    <http://www.tcr.org>    978-443-0022

# National History Club

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