



National History Club



Newsletter and Forum

Spring 2006

For Secondary Students of History

Issue VIII

Why Historical Documents Matter...

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As the History Club movement itself attests, history is hot these days. A wave of bestselling books such as David McCullough's *1776*, Ron Chernow's *Alexander Hamilton*, Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Team of Rivals*, and scores of others have crowded onto bestseller lists and into the front windows of Barnes and Noble. Films of historical subjects have been making a splash, both those in theatres such as *Band of Brothers* (2001), *Cold Mountain* (2003), and this year's *Good Night and Good Luck*, and a steady stream on PBS, from the Burns brothers' *Civil War* (1990) through Skip Gates' *African American Lives* (2006). The History Channel's viewership is soaring and history book clubs are sprouting up in communities across the country.

Several new history museums have opened in the past decade, from the World War II Museum in New Orleans to the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia and the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, while venerable institutions such as Historic Mount Vernon and the Gettysburg Battlefield National Park have massive multi-million dollar expansions underway, and the even more venerable New York Historical Society (founded 1804) has pushed history to the front ranks of New York cultural life with record-setting exhibitions on "Alexander Hamilton" and "Slavery in New York." Hugely lucrative book prizes such as the Lincoln Prize (\$50,000) and the Frederick

Douglass Prize (\$25,000) now share the limelight with the Bancroft, Parker, and others. Since 2004, a nationwide "History Teacher of the Year" program, co-sponsored by Preserve America and the Gilder Lehrman Institute, has presented awards in all fifty states, and then a national award which, for two years running, has been presented by the First Lady, Laura Bush.

Next to all this, old pieces of paper stored in the bowels of libraries might not seem very exciting. Indeed, it is fair to ask: why should students—even history-loving students—make historical documents their primary focus? Some would point to tactical advantages in one's educational career—better answers to D.B.Q.'s (Document-Based Questions), higher scores on AP History exams, an edge in applying to college, improved writing and close reading skills that raise college GPA's and perhaps eventually helping one get into law school. These are likely and desirable side effects, but not sufficient in themselves.

The deeper reason is that original documents give us access to history in ways more profound—intellectually, imaginatively, and emotionally—than anything else. They can for example humanize an otherwise remote figure like George Washington. Who isn't moved by his letter of September 9, 1787, written to a fellow slave-owning Virginian, in which he reveals his desire to see "slavery in this Country...abolished by slow, sure, and imperceptable [sic] degrees"?

Documents can open windows into the collective psyche of people at a pivotal moment. The survival of a rare copy of the first draft of the Constitution (August

6, 1787), a document that was never supposed to be seen outside the closed-door sessions of the convention in Philadelphia, enables us to notice the delegates still describing themselves as "We the People of the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, [etc.]" Only through the text can we sense the political and psychological transformation that came when they radically reconceived themselves as one nation: "We, the People of the United States..."

A manuscript can yield important secrets via seemingly petty details such as handwriting. A letter from Frederick Douglass to his former owner Hugh Auld on October 4, 1857, reveals a depth of humanity in Douglass that is almost beyond belief. Writing nineteen years after his escape from bondage, Douglass inquires about members of his former master's family who "were dear to me and are still," adding that "I feel nothing but kindness for you all" and "I love you but hate slavery." The final twist, though, is that the surviving copy is written in the hand not of Douglass, but of Hugh Auld. The slave master was himself so moved by the grace of his former slave's text that he made a copy to preserve, even as he sent the original (now lost) on to other members of his family.

The close reading of a document like Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation can free us from the tyranny of earlier historians' interpretations. Famously derided by one historian for

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being dull as “a bill of lading,” the Proclamation actually reflects, in its meticulous listing of states in rebellion (down to the county level), Lincoln’s concern not to exceed his wartime authority and risk having emancipation overturned by a Supreme Court still sympathetic to slave holders.

Finally, a more recent document shows how history lives on in the present. Echoing and answering a motto of the 18th and 19th century abolitionist movement (“Am I Not A Man, and A Brother?”), a placard saved from the Memphis garbage men’s strike of April 4, 1968 affirms in capital letters “I AM A MAN.” Martin Luther King, Jr.’s support for that strike placed him in a long historic continuum, even as it led to his tragic death by an assassin’s bullet that day in Memphis.

All the documents I have mentioned, along with tens of thousands of others, lie in the Gilder Lehrman Collection in New York, as do millions of comparable documents in other archives across the country. Thanks to the web, they are increasingly available to everyone, everywhere. Each historical document offers a portal to the past, a means to enter into the thoughts and emotions and experiences of people long ago that is at least as effective and exciting as the most sophisticated media of our time. For those who approach history with imagination and passion, there is nothing better.

Welcome New Chapters

Allegany High School (Cumberland, Maryland) - Advisors, Brian T. White & Dan Whetzel

Canterbury School (Fort Myers, Florida) - Advisor, Ronald Young

Carter G. Woodson Middle School* (Houston, Texas) - Advisor, Crystal Parliament

Eagle High School (Eagle, Idaho) - Advisors, Gail Chumbley & Jim Corey

East Middle School (Plymouth, Michigan) - Advisors, Linda Gayer & Jodi Svoboda

Ed White Middle School* (San Antonio, Texas) - Advisor, Adonis Schurmann

Fort Collins High School (Fort Collins, Colorado) - Advisor, Christine Matthie

Great Falls High School (Great Falls, South Carolina) - Advisor, Scott Steen

Hal Peterson Middle School* (Kerrville, Texas) - Advisor, Christi Highsmith

Housatonic Valley Regional High School (Falls Village, Connecticut) - Advisor, Deron Bayer

Lakeview Junior High School (Dracut, Massachusetts) - Advisor, Rebecca Duda

Mayde Creek High School* (Houston, Texas) - Advisor, Penny Rosas

Mercyhurst Preparatory School (Erie, Pennsylvania) - Advisor, Douglas C. Bakka

Morris Hills High School (Rockaway, New Jersey) - Advisor, Tracy Hornby

Murphy Middle School* (Murphy, Texas) - Advisor, Donna Jenkins

Northwestern Preparatory Academy (Flint, Michigan) - Advisor, Robert May

O’Gorman Junior High School (Sioux Falls, South Dakota) - Advisor, John Nohr

Ossining High School (Ossining, New York) - Advisor, Ronald W. Heath

Palisades Charter High School (Pacific Palisades, California) - Advisor, Robert King

Parkview High School (Lilburn, Georgia) - Advisor, Regina Loveridge

Parkway West High School (Ballwin, Missouri) - Advisor, Lara Boles

Pin Oak Middle School* (Bellaire, Texas) - Advisor, Kenneth Frankum

Portage Central High School (Portage, Michigan) - Advisors, Tama Salisbury & Kent Baker

Sandwich Middle School (Sandwich, Illinois) - Advisors, Rob Crawley & Andy Heilemeier

Somers High School (Somers, Connecticut) - Advisor, Dean Graziano

Stuart-Hobson Museum Middle School (Washington, DC) - Advisor, Amy Trenkle

The First Academy (Orlando, Florida) - Advisor, George M. Siler

Woodlands College Park High School* (The Woodlands, Texas) - Advisor, Donna Frazier

* Denotes member of Junior Historians of Texas

Chapter Activities

Here is the latest information on what chapters have been doing 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.

★ The **Adams Central History Club** (IN) recently had **Philip Bialowitz**, one of the only eight remaining survivors from the Nazi death camp Sobibor, visit and talk to the club. Bialowitz is from Izbica, Poland and was part of an escape attempt from the camp in October 1943, which was one of the largest prisoner uprisings in World War II. Club member and Polish exchange student, **Adrian Macutkiewicz**, greeted Mr. Bialowitz in Polish. This event was sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne (<http://www.jewishfortwayne.org/>)...Contact: **Carolyn McCammon** (cmccammo@r8esc.k12.in.us)

★ **Allegany High School** (MD) has been placing the finishing touches on their oral history project. This year the group has been researching and developing a history of their high school. Allegany is 118 years old, and the students have engaged in a large amount of primary research by interviewing alumni of the school dating back as far as 1933. The 200-page publication will be sold in an effort to publish another book on next year's project. Anyone interested in purchasing the book should visit the club's website at <http://ahsoralhistoryproject.allconet.org/>...Contact: **Brian White** (briantwhite@excite.com)

★ **Aspen High School's History Club** (CO) created a sub-committee to showcase Aspen's history in the high school building. Seniors **Jake Lansburgh**, **Alex Beinstein**, **Justin Faurer**, **Patrick Kane**, **Lauren Peisach**, and **Corina Person** are working diligently on the project, which should be finished this month. The students are partnering with **Anna Lookabil** from the Aspen Historical Society (<http://www.aspenhistory.org/>) and **Zach Ornitz** of the *Aspen Daily News* to display twenty historical photos in the high school. The photographs will represent the four significant eras of Aspen: the Native American Era, the Mining Era, the Quiet Era, and the Ski Era...Senior members of the club were treated to a special guest lecture by **Barry Schochet** to complete their IB History study of the Watergate Era. Mr. Schochet served as counsel on a special committee chaired by Senator Sam Ervin. This committee was instrumental in developing campaign reforms and helped launch the Watergate hearings that eventually led to the resignation of President Nixon...Contact: **Karen Green** (kgreen@aspenk12.net)

★ **Atlantic City's Chapter** (NJ) went on a trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art (<http://www.philamuseum.org/>) in March and got a guided tour of Impressionist Art...Last month, the club went to the Old Barracks Museum (<http://www.barracks.org/>) in Trenton, which is an American Revolutionary War Museum...To celebrate Memorial Day, they will be visiting the Battleship *New Jersey* (<http://www.battleshipnewjersey.org/>)...Contact: **Maurice Lozzi** (molozzi@yahoo.com)

★ **Archbishop Carroll High School** (FL) celebrated West Indian Heritage Day on February 6, to recognize the many students at the school who are from Haiti, Jamaica, and other West Indian nations...In March, eighteen students and two Advisors took part in the Close Up Program (<http://www.closeup.org/>) in Washington, D.C. This program helps develop students' knowledge of the basic concepts of government and citizenship, including learning about the legislative process, the Constitution, the Executive branch, and the courts...Contact: **Roger Zollo** (rczollo@bellsouth.net)

★ The **Christian Heritage History Club** (CT) recently spent ten days in Europe, visiting Rome, Florence, Capri, Pompeii, and Athens...The group also just sponsored a political and philosophical debate between **John Rankin** (President of the Theological Education Institute) and **David Silverman** (National Spokesman for American Atheists) on the issues and implications in the Evolution and Intelligent Design controversy...In February, eight members attended the Conservative Political Action Conference (<http://www.cpac.org/>) in Washington, D.C., where they got to hear such speakers as **Bill Frist**, **Newt Gingrich**, **Mitch McConnell**, **Elaine Chou**, and **Rick Santorum**. They also toured the Holocaust Museum and other monuments while in the city...Contact: **Andrew Potter** (APotter@Kingsmen.org)

★ **Conrad Weiser** (PA) members also went on a trip to Washington, D.C., where they went to the Smithsonian Museum (<http://www.si.edu/>) and visited National monuments. The highlight of the trip was when the club officers got to take a private tour of the West Wing with Chris Byrne, a former student at the high school who works in the Office of White House Personnel. They were able to see the Oval Office, the cabinet meeting room, the Rose Garden, and the White House Press briefing room...Congratulations to **Meghan McHale**, who won 2nd place in the performance category of the regional National History Day contest with her entry entitled "Dian Fossey: A Hero in the Mist"...Contact: **Ann Schmidt** (a_schmidt@conradweiser.org)

Chapter Activities

★ The **Dreyfoos School for the Arts** (FL) participated in a few different events this past February. At the beginning of the month seven members attended the Palm Beach Round Table to listen to **Dr. Hugh Evans** speak about Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Dr. Evans is the author of the book *The Hidden Campaign: FDR's Health and the Election of 1944*. A few days later representatives of the Palm Beach County Historical Society (<http://www.historicalsocietypb.org/>) came in and discussed preservation of historical landmarks...To finish the month the club celebrated Black History Month by showing an outdoor film for the entire community to view...Contact: **Sara Stout** (stouts@palmbeach.k12.fl.us)

★ **Eisenhower High School** (Junior Historians #610) (TX) participated in National History Day recently. To prepare for NHD, members adopted 7th grade students from Drew Academy and helped serve as “research buddies”. Club members were matched up with younger students who were researching similar things, and the “buddies” did some initial research to learn more about their partner’s topic. They then sat down with their student, reviewed some primary resources, and helped them develop a thesis for the project. Some of the ongoing topics include Peter the Great, Joan of Arc, Pope John Paul II, Australian Aborigines, and the Tlatelolco Massacre. Meetings were held after school at the high school, and while they started off meeting only once a month, they ended up meeting at least every two weeks...Contact: **Debra Brown** (dbrown@aldine.k12.tx.us)

★ At **Greensburg Salem High School** (PA), club members spent a day at the Heinz Regional History Center (<http://www.pghhistory.org/>) in Pittsburgh. The focus of the trip was the French and Indian War, and students toured the nationally-acclaimed exhibit, “A Clash of Empires.” Participants included **Corinne Free, Chris Horrell, Mary Jackson, Trudy Jackson, Ashley Jones, Lauren Jones, Sarah Sanders, Samantha Sellinger, and Kaitlyn Walton**...To finish the year the history club will be traveling to Gettysburg National Battlefield (<http://www.nps.gov/gett/>)...Contact: **Aimee Manning** (amanning@wiu.k12.pa.us)

★ The **GSSM Chapter** (SC) has helped sponsor a World War II film series for the entire student body...**Douglas Page** organized a delegation to attend the Congressional campaign announcement of local incumbent Congressman, **John Spratt**, where students got to participate in a question and answer session...Contact: **Carlanna Hendrick** (Carlanna_H_Hendrick@gssm.k12.sc.us)

★ Students at **Hopewell Middle School** (Junior Historians #834) (TX) have continued their research on the historic downtown in Round Rock. The group found out more on a field trip about the hold-up of the Williamson County Bank by Sam Bass and his outlaw gang in downtown Round Rock on July 19, 1878. A local merchant even showed them the indentations where several bullets hit the store’s stone facade during the robbery...**Sarah Patrick**, a club member, interviewed one of their school librarians, **Mrs. Zamarippa**, about the now defunct Round Rock Cheese Factory, which played a pivotal role during the Great Depression Era. Sarah then wrote a paper on this factory and placed third in the Historical Papers Competition at the annual meeting of the Junior Historians of Texas (<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/education/jh/index.html>)...Contact: **Ron Goins** (Charles_Goins@roundrockisd.org)

★ **Lago Vista’s History Club** (TX) participated in a writing contest for scholarship awards, in which they had to write essays describing what they believed to be the most significant battle in the World War II European Theatre. With many hours spent studying documents and reading history books, the group made up of **Chris Wallace, Colton Terry, Matt Teagle, Matt McClish, Josh Goram, and Michael Kolodzy**, took home many awards, with Chris Wallace taking 1st place in the individual competition and Matt McClish taking 5th place...Contact: **Scottie Johnson** (scottie_johnson@lagovista.txed.net)

★ **Lakeview Junior High School** (MA) went on a couple of local field trips. On March 23, the group visited the Center for Lowell History (<http://library.uml.edu/clh/>) and learned about their collection of primary documents related to Lowell history from the Center’s Director, **Martha Mayo**. A few weeks later they went to the Dracut Historical Society for a tour of the museum...In addition, the club has had on display in the school lobby an exhibit about George Washington in Massachusetts, which was loaned to the club by the Massachusetts State Archives and Museum (<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcidx.htm>)...Contact: **Rebecca Duda** (ra_duda@msn.com)

★ **Leon High School’s Chapter** (FL) took a trip to the Museum of Florida History (<http://www.flheritage.com/museum/>) to see an exhibit on Napoleon. This traveling exhibit had more than 250 rare and personal items, including artifacts, paintings, prints, documents and furnishings that are directly associated with Napoleon...Contact: **Eileen Schaap** (schaape@mail.leon.leon.k12.fl.us)

Chapter Activities

★ **Loudoun Valley's History Club** (VA) had a very successful year, raising their membership from 70 to 124 members...The group raised over \$1,100 for U.S. Veterans' Widows and Orphans through a 1941 U.S.O. Swing Dance...Other programs undertaken included a canoe trip down the Potomac to explore the river's impact on local history; an intense program that took a close look at genocide; and a two-day seminar on John Brown, the man who led a raid on a federal arsenal in Harpers Ferry, Virginia, on October 16, 1859, in an attempt to arm slaves with weapons...The most popular event they participated in was their annual Victorian Ball, where members re-created a spring evening in antebellum Hillsborough, and danced to waltzes, polkas, and schottisches...Contact: **Kari Labell** (klabell@loudoun.gov)

★ **Lynn Classical** (MA) students held their annual President's Day event with fourth graders from the local Julia F. Callahan School to celebrate our nation's Founding Fathers. Members had the younger children do word searches, gave quizzes on various Presidents, and had them write down a fact on a paper cherry or a portion of a paper beard about either George Washington or Abraham Lincoln...Contact: **Mark Currier** (CurrierM@lynnschools.org)

★ **Madison County's History Club** (AL) recently visited the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. This church is well-known due to the murder of four young girls at the hands of the Ku Klux Klan, when the Klan bombed the church on September 15, 1963. The church was the largest black church in Birmingham and served as a hub for the mass meetings of the civil rights movement. The brutal attack drew international attention to the violent struggle for civil rights in the South...Contact: **Peggy Neal** (PDNMCHS@aol.com)

★ One of our new chapters is from **Mercyhurst Preparatory School** (PA), and they read Henry Steele Commager's *The Nature and Study of History* and had a discussion about the book. Commager is remembered as a prolific American public intellectual who taught at New York University, Columbia, and Amherst College, published over 40 books, and frequently contributed articles to the *New Republic*, the *Nation*, and *Harper's*...Contact: **Douglas Bakka** (dbakka@mpslakers.com)

★ Please check out **Millbrook High School's** (NC) latest *Bridges* Newsletter at <http://mhs.wcpss.net/academics/poling/index.htm>, which is filled with interesting international news articles and student commentary...Members traveled to the nation's capital

in April to attend a special foreign policy seminar at the U.S. Institute of Peace (<http://www.usip.org/>). The trip also included a stop at Arlington Cemetery (<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org/>) and a candlelight ceremony at the Vietnam Wall led by veterans and students...Contact: **Lindy Poling** (lgpoling@juno.com)

★ **Missouri Military Academy's** (MO) cadets went to a "Living History" exhibition, where they heard lectures on World War II weapons and uniforms and saw a reenactment of the gunfight at the OK Corral. This gunfight was an event of legendary proportions that occurred in October 1881, and it pitted Wyatt, Morgan, and Virgil Earp, and friends, against Frank and Tom McLaury, and others. The gunfight was a result of both sides feuding over politics, business concerns, and other ideological factors...A second trip took them to Hannibal, Missouri to learn more about the life and times of Mark Twain...Contact: **Frank Giuseffi** (fgiu@mma.mexico.mo.us)

★ **Nimitz High School** (Junior Historians #402) (TX) attended two of the Tate Lectures at Southern Methodist University. Members heard **Colin Powell** speak and were able to ask him questions about his experiences as Secretary of State. Students also attended a lecture and question and answer session with **David McCullough**, who was in town to promote his book *1776*...During their spring break, 41 Junior Historians visited the Bureau of Printing and Engraving in Fort Worth (one of only two locations in the U.S. where currency is printed) and the 6th Floor Museum located in the Schoolbook Depository, where Lee Harvey Oswald hid while firing upon John F. Kennedy's motorcade...Finally, members have been providing their expertise as history tutors twice a month in taking turns with other campus organizations offering peer tutoring after school in the library...Contact: **Helen Bradley** (HelenBradley@irvingisd.net)

★ **Nixon-Smiley's Chapter** (Junior Historians #625) (TX) honored Marine Corporal **John Longoria**, a 2003 graduate who was killed last November in Iraq, by having his picture enlarged and hanging it next to a plaque in the high school hallway...Students have also been giving reports in their bi-weekly meetings on older (65+ years) members of the community and their experiences in the past. **Laduska Boone** reported on how her grandfather was held hostage for six weeks in Libya, when Muammar Gaddafi overthrew King Idris to take control of the country in 1970. Laduska's grandfather had been working on an oil rig for Phillips Petroleum Company in the Sahara Desert at the time...Contact: **Jacob Lee** (jacob.lee@nixonsmiley.txed.net)

Chapter Activities

★ **Ossining High School's Chapter** (NY) started out by viewing the film *Good Night and Good Luck* and then attending a lecture on the movie about the real-life conflict between broadcast journalist Edward R. Murrow and Senator Joseph McCarthy...To end the year the club took a trip to Philipsburg Manor (<http://www.hudsonvalley.org/philipsburg/index.htm>), a restored colonial Dutch manor on the Hudson River, to explore colonial slavery in New York...Contact: **Ron Heath** (RHeath@Ossining.k12.ny.us)

★ **Ottawa-Glandorf High School** (OH) has just made a recent donation to the Tawa Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The purpose of the donation was to help with the dedication and placement of a historical marker in their community park to commemorate Ottawa native Dr. Frances Horwich. "Miss Frances" was a teacher in town back in the 1950s. Group members raised the money by selling playoff t-shirts for their football team...Contact: **Troy Yant** (yantt@og.noacsc.org)

★ **Parkview's History Club** (GA) has hosted two guest speakers in after-school sessions and invited all interested students. Their first speaker was local teacher **Larry Sneed**, who is the author of "No More Silence" and is an expert on the John F. Kennedy assassination. Later, the group heard from **Jim Longenecker** and **Thor Whitmore**, who are both employed in the Department of Homeland Security...Congratulations to **Lisa Xu** and **Kristen Luca**, who recently competed in the state history day contest after finishing in first place in the regional competition with their research study entitled "Come Sit With Us!", regarding the civil rights sit-ins...Contact: **Regina Loveridge** (regina_loveridge@gwinnett.k12.ga.us)

★ **Pin Oak Middle School** (Junior Historians #854) (TX) took a trip to the San Jacinto Festival at Battleground Park in La Porte, Texas. The festival this year commemorated the 170th anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto, and there was a battle reenactment for students to witness. In addition to this, students were able to visit living history camps for the Texan army, Texas civilians, and Mexican army, as well as participate in such activities as writing with a quill and ink and digging for artifacts...Their final trip of the year took them to the Houston Museum of Natural Science (<http://www.hmns.org/?r=1>) to see the exhibit "The Treasures of Ur," which showcased artifacts from the ancient Mesopotamian civilization...Contact: **Kenneth Frankum** (KFrankum@houstonisd.org)

★ The **Benjamin Franklin Honor Society** at **Plainedge High School** (NY) spent the first few weeks of January celebrating the 300th birthday of their namesake by holding a Ben Franklin look-a-like contest with prizes for faculty and students...Recently, the group held two Nostalgia Movie Nights for senior citizens of the town where they showed older films...Contact: **Doug Abrams** (dabrams@plainedgeschools.org)

★ **Portage Central High's Chapter** (MI) read an article by **Richard Schickel** regarding the film *Munich*, then went to see the movie and discussed it afterwards...Another trip took them to the Public Museum of Grand Rapids (<http://www.grmuseum.org>) for the "Treasures of Ancient Egypt" exhibition...To get younger students interested in history, the club partnered with a local fifth-grade teacher to help that teacher explain the role geography has played in major historical events to her students, who were studying geography at the time. Historical events that were examined included the Dust Bowl, the Norman Invasion, and the building of the Panama Canal...Contact: **Tama Salisbury** (TSalisbury@PortagePS.org)

★ **RiverStone Community School** (ID) partnered with the Idaho State Historical Society (<http://www.idahohistory.net/>) to work on an oral history project intended to gather and preserve people's stories and memories about the Idaho State Capitol. The ISHS received \$11,500 from the Capitol Commission in the summer of 2005 to work with the history club on conducting interviews during last summer, the current legislative session, and into the coming summer months. State Oral Historian **Troy Reeves** noted, "the project was put together with little notice and would not have happened without the exemplary work of **Lisa Fisher** and five of her RiverStone students."...Contact: **Lisa Fisher** (lfisher@riverstonecs.org)

★ **Salem's History Club** (MA) saw 31 members travel to the Museum of Fine Arts (<http://www.mfa.org>) in Boston, where they got to look at the vast array of artwork and artifacts on display. They report that the Egyptian and ancient culture collections were discussed the most among the students...On April 3, a dozen members attended a Salem State Historical Association luncheon to speak with a few professors about the study of history and what the role of the Historical Association is...Final plans are being made for an early June trip to Gettysburg...Contact: **Daniel Ritchie** (dritchie20@hotmail.com)

Chapter Activities

★ **Southwestern High School** (IL) recently took in a few Abraham Lincoln sites in Springfield. They first visited President Lincoln's home and neighborhood and then moved on to the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (<http://www.alplm.org/home.html>). The chapter ended its day with a trip to Lincoln's tomb...Before the end of the year, members will be traveling to the Lewis and Clark Interactive Center in Wood River, Illinois, the Jefferson Memorial expansion (<http://www.nps.gov/jeff/>), and the Federal Court House in St. Louis where the Dred Scott case took place...Contact: **Matt Hasquin** (mhasquin@piasa.birds.net)

★ **St. John's History Club** (MA) took a tour of the American Antiquarian Society (<http://www.americanantiquarian.org/>) to learn more about its mission and about its founder, printer Isaiah Thomas. During their visit they learned about modern archival preservation and walked around some of the Society's state-of-the-art facilities. The club opened the tour to anyone at the high school interested and they were pleased to have over fifty students and teachers join them...Contact: **Michelle Dhanda** (mdhanda@stjohnshigh.org)

★ **St. John's Preparatory School** (MA) has been focusing on learning naval and maritime history, driven by the interest of club members. After first watching Horatio Hornblower's "The Duel," the club is working on a trip to visit the *U.S.S. Constitution* (<http://www.usconstitution.navy.mil/>)...They also engaged in an oral history project, meeting and interviewing a St. John's Prep graduate from the class of 1940 who flew B-26 missions over Europe during World War II, including during D-Day, then later flying shipments of coal into Berlin during the Berlin Airlift...Contact: **Charlie Newhall** (cnewhall@stjohnsprep.org)

★ Our first chapter from D.C., **Stuart-Hobson Middle School**, received a \$1500 grant from a local organization that helped them purchase National Park Service passports for all of their members. They spent an entire Saturday walking around the city, going to the top of the Washington Monument (<http://www.nps.gov/wamo/home.htm>) and looking at the other museums... They have also partnered with a local library on a project entitled "Then and Now." Students chose photos of Washington, D.C. from 100 years ago and spent time visiting those places, finding where the picture was taken from then and snapping a picture from that spot today. The final result will be a traveling exhibit with both sets of photos and a description... Contact: **Amy Trenkle** (atrenkle@hotmail.com)

★ **Suffern High School's** (NY) recent induction ceremony resulted in the acceptance of 80 new members to the club. They also got to enjoy a forum discussion with **Peter Gibbon**, the author of *A Call to Heroism*. Students got to participate in a question and answer session with Dr. Gibbon once he was finished speaking. For information on his school visits check out page 10 of the Newsletter...Contact: **Kim Cleary** (kcleary@ramapocentral.org)

★ **Truman Middle School** (Junior Historians #826) (TX) celebrated Black History Month by asking "Who Am I?" questions to students at the school and then awarding the winners gift certificates to the movies...Last April, they toured the Marion Loyd Homestead on Joe Pool Lake in Grand Prairie, Texas...Contact: **Janie Zachry** (Janie.Zachry@gpisd.org)

★ **West Morris Central High School** (NJ) hosted a Junior Historians Forum, with Frederick Douglass Academy and Mendham High School joining them. The Junior Historians Forum is a program sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/>) and it brings historians together with high school students to discuss topics. Students are presented with primary source documents that deal with the topic before the lecture so that they have some previous knowledge before attending the lecture. At the forum for the three schools, **Clarence Taylor**, a professor of History at Baruch College, spoke on the topic of the Civil Rights Movement...Contact: **Michelle Mongey** (mongey@wmchs.org)

★ The **Williams Bay Chapter** (WI) reports that their overnight stay on board the *USS Cobia* was a big hit, as the members got to identify enemy aircraft and ship silhouettes, man the 40mm 2-man deck gun, and sleep atop torpedoes in the torpedo room...They held a "History Bowl" contest this past winter. Teams representing each high school grade competed in a fast paced trivia game modeled after *Survivor* and *Jeopardy*...In addition, they participated in a primary source workshop on World War II last March...Contact: **Deb Soplanda** (bdsoplanda@elknet.net)



History Student of the Year

We would like to recognize the following recipients of their chapter's "History Student of the Year" award. Each recipient receives an autographed copy of **David McCullough's 1776** 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/>).

Abraham Lincoln High School - Heather Bleiberg
Adams Central High School - Justin Kable
All Hallows High School - Amin Fernandez
Aspen High School - Justin Faurer
Assumption High School - Michael Warren
Atlantic City High School - Mariann Ortiz
Benilde-St. Margaret's School - Joshua Carlson
C.A. Bouton High School - Steven Wang
Cactus Shadows High School - Kylaas Flanagan & Rachel Leander
Calallen High School - Justin McNary
Calvert Hall College High School - Richard Scholz
Carroll High School - Aimee Carrero
Chandler High School - Vicki Peng
Christian Heritage School - David Hannibal
Collins Hill High School - Charles Ford
Conrad Weiser High School - Kaitlyn Davis
Creek Wood High School - Cody McNeal
Deerpark Middle School - Nicholas Durhman
DeLay Middle School - Mykayla Stamper
Dover High School - Emily Siegfried
Dreyfoos School for the Arts - Casey Griffin
Eagle High School - Kayla Harris
East Middle School - Priya Joshi
Eisenhower High School - Monica Loas
Eustace Middle School - Kimberly Austin
First Academy - Victoria Bragg
Forest Hills High School - Lior Kleinman
Foxborough High School - Emma O'Leary
Gorham High School - Samantha Jones
Governor's School for Science & Mathematics - Andrew Proctor
Great Falls High School - Jamie Lester
Great Neck North High School - Michele Hong
Greensburg Salem High School - Lauren Jones
Hastings Senior High School - Diana Bruguera
Hopewell Middle School - Cooper Roe
Horace Greeley High School - Shaina Wright & Josh Harris
Howe Military School - Benjamin Wolf
Jean Ribault High School - Marvette Perry
Katy High School - Virginia Hoffman
Lakeview Junior High School - Kaylie Crawford
Lookout Mountain Homeschoolers - Duncan McPherson
Loudoun Valley High School - Amanda Ruth Juraschek
Lowndes High School - Stephanie Green
Lynn Classical High School - Sarah Fortucci
Madison County High School - Farrah Spalding
Manlius Pebble School - Mary E. Lutton
Mayde Creek High School - Penny Rosas
McAuley High School - Angela Kircher
McKeel Academy - Paige Pirkle

Memphis University School - Christopher Thomas
Mercyhurst Preparatory School - Rowland Yang
Millbrook High School - Cristina Chenlo
Monta Vista High School - Nishant Bhat
Moore Magnet Middle School - Alex Wood
Morris Hills High School - Victoria Zagarino
Nease High School - Ron Angerer
Nimitz High School - Kyle Melton
Nixon-Smiley High School - Danny Staunton
Northwestern Preparatory Academy - Jeremy Tyler
O'Gorman Junior High School - Julia Schrier
Ossining High School - Supriya Mishra
Ottawa-Glandorf High School - Josh Ellerbrock
Palisades Charter High School - Ofri Lee Orwin
Park High School - Andrew Auge
Parkview High School - Nicole Vallencourt
Parkway West High School - Kelsey O'Keefe
Pin Oak Middle School - Jemynna Chua
Pittston Area High School - Matthew Kinns
Plain Dealing High School - Cameron Player
Plainedge High School - Keith Cocheo
Portage Central High School - Andrew Krietz
Price T. Young Middle School - Amanda Warwick
Princeton High School - Molly McMahon
Ravenscroft School - Lysandra Lestini
Richard Montgomery High School - Ben Hines
RiverStone Community School - Keegan Poppen
Riverwood Middle School - Matt Digregorio
Ronald Reagan High School - Sean Linehan
Rutgers Preparatory School - Anne Drelles
Salem High School - Evan Buso-Jarnis
Salesian High School - Thomas Forzaglia
San Diego High School - Sasha Perez & Joe Valerio
Sandwich Middle School - Matt Davis
Santa Catalina School - Laura McKenzie
S.C. Lee Junior High School - Aaron Sheppard
Shorecrest Preparatory School - Kimberly Levitt
Somers High School - Daniel Lynch
South Park High School - Kevin Vietmeir
South Portland High School - Sam Chatto
Southwestern High School - Blake McAfee
Spotswood High School - Renee Evennoe
St. Andrew's-Sewanee School - Bill Fisher & Benjamin Miller
St. John's High School - Thomas Leonard
St. John's Preparatory School - Jeffrey Sands
St. Martin High School - Thuy Tran
St. Mary's Episcopal School - Meg Sights
Stuart-Hobson Middle School - Leonard Roberson
Suffern High School - Lisa Plotkin
S.V. Marshall High School - Ashley Gamble
Timberlane Regional High School - Maria Tallo
Truman Middle School - Meredith Rosenthal
U.N. International School - Alexander Lewis & Victoria Lewis
Warwick High School - Lauren Conoscenti
Wayne Valley High School - Cheryl Bylinski
West Morris Central High School - Melanie Pastuck
Whitman-Hanson Regional High School - Melissa Haley
Williams Bay High School - Jeff Roller
Woodlands College Park High School - Hannah Ha



Who Am I?



Test your knowledge of U.S. Presidents with this quiz. The answers are on Page 10.

1) I was a peanut farmer from Georgia, served during the Iran Hostage Crisis, and created the Department of Education during my one term as President...

- A. Harry Truman
- B. Rutherford B. Hayes
- C. Ronald Reagan
- D. Jimmy Carter

2) I am only one of two Presidents to have a father who was President. I am also considered one of the greatest Secretaries of State to serve...

- A. Benjamin Harrison
- B. John Adams
- C. John Quincy Adams
- D. William Henry Harrison

3) I am the only American President to be unanimously elected. I was elected Commander in Chief of the Continental Army at the 2nd Continental Congress in May 1775...

- A. Andrew Jackson
- B. George Washington
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. James Monroe

4) I was an actor and the governor of California before I became President. I famously told Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall," referring to the Berlin Wall...

- A. George H.W. Bush
- B. Ronald Reagan
- C. Lyndon Johnson
- D. John F. Kennedy

5) I am the second President to die by assassination. I was shot two months after being sworn into office, and died 80 days later...

- A. James A. Garfield
- B. Abraham Lincoln
- C. Chester A. Arthur
- D. William McKinley

6) I was the first President ever to be a Rhodes Scholar, was the first Democrat to win reelection since Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and during my administration the U.S. enjoyed vast economic growth...

- A. John F. Kennedy
- B. Bill Clinton
- C. Gerald Ford
- D. Warren Harding

7) I was President during the first World War and tried unsuccessfully to have the Versailles Treaty (creating a League of Nations) passed after the war...

- A. Teddy Roosevelt
- B. Calvin Coolidge
- C. Herbert Hoover
- D. Woodrow Wilson

8) I was the general in charge of the D-Day invasion during World War II, and I later served two terms...

- A. George H.W. Bush
- B. Harry Truman
- C. Franklin Pierce
- D. Dwight Eisenhower

9) I did not have a formal education growing up and was taught reading, writing, and math by my wife, but that still did not stop me from taking over when Abraham Lincoln was shot...

- A. Andrew Johnson
- B. Ulysses S. Grant
- C. Zachary Taylor
- D. James Buchanan

10) I am the only President to have ever resigned...

- A. Grover Cleveland
- B. William H. Taft
- C. Richard Nixon
- D. Bill Clinton

For Graduating Seniors

Phi Alpha Theta, the national collegiate honor society for history, was founded in 1921 and has now expanded to 839 chapters in over 50 states. The total number of initiates since its inception is more than 281,000. Information about joining **Phi Alpha Theta** is posted on the website, www.phialphatheta.org. The society actively encourages participation by its student and faculty members in three dozen annual regional meetings and at Biennial Conventions at which they present their papers. Student members also present their research at almost all the major national historical meetings.

High school teachers may want to subscribe to the society's quarterly journal, *The Historian*. It features a wide range of articles and timely book reviews, and it is the second highest in circulation among scholarly historical periodicals.

For more information, contact **Jack Tunstall**, Executive Director, at phialpha@phialphatheta.org.

School Visits?

For history clubs seeking to bring in a guest speaker next fall, **Peter Gibbon** has again offered up his services to any chapter interested. Dr. Gibbon, who lectures on heroism in America, has traveled around to various chapters in the past to talk to students. He says about the role of heroes, "We need role models and mentors and local heroes, but by limiting our heroes to people we know, we restrict our aspirations. Public heroes—or imperfect people of extraordinary achievement, courage and greatness of soul whose reach is wider than our own—teach us to push beyond ourselves and our neighborhoods in search of models of excellence."

Dr. Gibbon is the author of *A Call to Heroism: Renewing America's Vision of Greatness* (Atlantic Monthly Press, 2002), has published articles in *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *The Washington Post*, and in 2003 was a speaker at the White House Forum on History, Civics, and Service Education. He can be contacted through his website - <http://www.heroesinamerica.org/biography.html>.



Ralph Waldo Emerson Prizes



The twelfth annual Ralph Waldo Emerson Prizes for student work of outstanding academic promise in history at the secondary level were awarded last April to **Wylie Galvin** (St. Albans School, DC), **Elizabeth Jemison** (St. Mary's Episcopal School, TN), **Oliver Mains** (Branson School, CA), **Ezekiel Rediker** (Taylor Allderdice High School, PA), and **Shaina Wright** (Horace Greeley High School, NY), who were all published in Volume 15 of *The Concord Review*.

The awards were hosted by the History Department of Governor Dummer Academy in Byfield, Massachusetts. Each Emerson Prize laureate received a check for \$3,000, and a copy of David McCullough's Pulitzer Prize-winning biography *Truman*. Emerson awards have now gone to 45 high school students from Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Czechoslovakia, Florida, Illinois, Japan, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, New Zealand, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Russia, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, D.C., and Washington State.

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

❖ *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 eighteen years, *The Concord Review* has published 726 essays from authors in 44 states and 33 other countries. **For a limited time, we invite any history club member to submit an essay free of charge** on any historical topic—domestic or foreign, ancient or modern. Each essay must be accompanied by a Submission Form, which can be found on our website at <http://www.tcr.org>. Please note on the Submission Form that you are a history club member.

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 (22), Columbia (13), Dartmouth (9), Harvard (78), Princeton (41), Stanford (24), Yale (64), 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.”

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 in schools across the country. We now have chapters in thirty-nine states and two foreign countries, and there are over 5,700 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 might 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 Nason, Executive Director, along with the names of the students and the Advisor, as well as the Advisor’s e-mail address.

History Club Paper of the Year

Next school year, we would like to introduce the “History Club Paper of the Year” award, which will be given to one student in each club that decides to recognize one of their members.

We encourage all chapters to have students work on history papers during the year (they can be done for a class) and then choose their best one and send us the paper (by e-mail attachment) towards the end of the school year. These papers will then be posted on our website for our visitors to read. We are not looking for any particular topic or length—that is entirely up to each individual chapter.



Contact Information:

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National History Club

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