

The

POINT!



**E-Letter of the Western Pennsylvania
Council for the Social Studies**

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March 2009

WPCSS Albert Goldsmith Award for Local History

Western Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies has invested in a CD in order to fund an annual Albert R. Goldsmith Award for the best entry on local or family history in the Regional History Fair competition at the Senator John Heinz Regional History Center. National History Day in Pittsburgh is Saturday, March 21. Registration and set up begin at 7:30 a.m. Judging begins at 9:00 a.m.

See: [National History Day PITT](#)

Civil War Preservation Trust

The Civil War Preservation Trust is holding the annual Poster and Essay contest again this year. There are prizes for both winning students and their teachers. For details about the program see:

<http://www.civilwar.org/historyclassroom/>.

Also they are hosting a professional development opportunity – the summer Teacher Institute on July 24-26, 2009. Continuing education units are available in partnership with Virginia Tech.

In addition, there is a Best Lesson Plan contest, with prizes also donated by History (the History Channel). You can find more information about the Poster & Essay Contest, Teacher Institute, and Best Lesson Plan Contest at

<http://www.civilwar.org/historyclassroom/>.

Teachers At Elementary In Pennsylvania Integrate School Construction Into Lessons.

The [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (2/27, Ganster) reports, "When the Hampton Township School District began a nearly \$8 million overhaul of Poff Elementary School early last year," two first-grade teachers, Joanne Friday and Courtenay Garrett made students "part of the construction effort" and took "advantage of each stage of the project to teach a lesson. As part of the learning unit, the two teachers bought small, yellow, plastic construction hats for the children." The teachers got the "Foreman Group, the architects and construction group on the

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Poff renovation," in on the plan, and "began with classroom projects to help the students understand what was happening." And "As the project progressed, the lessons changed to match the stage of the renovation." When the "first-grade classrooms were completed," students presented the Foreman Group "with models of the two classrooms" they had prepared with art teacher Elizabeth Farrell.

ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA: THIS HISTORY, OUR HISTORY

<http://mesopotamia.lib.uchicago.edu/>

“Ancient Mesopotamia: This History, Our History provides a wealth of resources for teaching and learning about this civilization. The artifacts in the learning collection were chosen by teachers to shed light on the everyday lives of the people who lived in this area which is now Iraq. Teachers and students can examine the artifacts and use the teacher developed questions to drive classroom discussions. The collection can be browsed by name, material, object type, time period, archaeological site map or cultural themes. The Interactives offer users the opportunity to view significant artifacts up close and go on a virtual archaeological dig in Iraq. Any of fourteen different themes can be explored to learn about the different aspects of ancient life in this region. Additionally, teaching materials such as standards based lesson plans, information on visual thinking strategies, how to use this resource and last but not least an online course for teachers wishing to learn more about this region.” (Education World Site Reviews)

CRUSADES ENCYCLOPEDIA

<http://www.crusades-encyclopedia.com/>

The Crusades Encyclopedia is a very complete and comprehensive work on the Crusades with over 900 Encyclopedia Entries with more than 300 secondary sources and 200 primary sources. Crusades-Encyclopedia The site also contains categorized links for Crusades chroniclers and authors of Primary Sources, Crusades historians, Crusades bibliographies as well as a wealth of other resources. (Educator-Gold)

EUROPEANA

<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/index.html>

Europeana.eu, created by the European Commission contains about 2 million digital items such as images (paintings, drawings, maps, photos and pictures of museum objects), texts (books, newspapers, letters, diaries and archival papers), sounds (music and spoken word from cylinders, tapes, discs and radio broadcasts),

videos (films, newsreels and TV broadcasts) Some of these are world famous while others are hidden treasures from Europe's museums & galleries, archives, libraries, audio-visual collections. The European Commission's goal for Europeana is to make European information resources easier to use in an online environment. (Educator-Gold)

GREAT BUILDINGS

<http://www.greatbuildings.com>

“ Great Buildings shares the world of architecture online at the leading architecture reference site on the web. This gateway to architecture around the world and across history documents a thousand buildings and hundreds of leading architects with photographic images and architectural drawings, integrated maps and timelines, 3D building models, commentaries, bibliographies, web links, and more, for famous designers and structures of all kinds. For up-to-the-moment coverage of the latest buildings, designers, and ideas, GreatBuildings.com is richly cross-linked with ArchitectureWeek, the leading architecture magazine online, and Archiplanet, the community-created all-buildings collection.” (David P. Dilliard)

THE MAGNIFICENT, THE MERRY AND THE MUNDANE: THE DISPLAY WINDOWS OF EATON'S DEPARTMENT STORE

<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/exhibits/eatons-windows/>

This exhibit explores department store display windows, which "have been central to Canadian retailing since Timothy Eaton built Canada's first super-size department store in the 1880s." Topics include the history of Eaton's (founded as T. Eaton Company by Timothy Eaton), displays inspired by royalty, Christmas windows, and other window display trends through the history of the store. From the Archives of Ontario” (Librarian’s Internet Index)

NATIONMASTER - WORLD STATISTICS, COUNTRY COMPARISONS

<http://www.nationmaster.com/index.php>

NationMaster is a massive central data source and a handy way to graphically compare nations. NationMaster is a vast compilation of data from such sources as the CIA World Factbook, UN, and OECD. Using the form above, users can

generate maps and graphs on all kinds of statistics with ease. NationMaster wants to be the web's one-stop resource for country statistics on everything from soldiers to wall plug voltages. You can also view profiles of individual countries including their maps and flags, use correlation reports and scatter plots to find relationships between variables, and refer to fully integrated encyclopedia with over one million articles. (Educator-Gold)

OMNIBIOGRAPHY

<http://www.omnibiography.com/>

OmniBiography.com is the largest directory of biographies available on the Web containing information on more than 110,000 important people from antiquity to the present time. It can be searched by name, by country, by state and alphabetically and it includes biographies from the most important sites on the web in all languages. (Site of the Day)

PREHISTORIC TIME LINE

<http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/prehistoric-world/prehistoric-time-line.html>

“Humans have walked the Earth for 190,000 years, a mere blip in Earth's 4.5-billion-year history. A lot has happened in that time. Earth formed and oxygen levels rose in the foundational years of the Precambrian. The productive Paleozoic era gave rise to hard-shelled organisms, vertebrates, amphibians, and reptiles. Dinosaurs ruled the Earth in the mighty Mesozoic. And 64 million years after dinosaurs went extinct, modern humans emerged in the Cenozoic era. The planet has seen an incredible series of catastrophes.

<http://virtualbookmark.typepad.com/>

From Our Texas Correspondent Jack Larner

iCue has created a wonderful new resource all about inaugurations. It features presidential speeches going back to McKinley's second inaugural (in 1901!), as well as related news segments and mini-documentaries produced by iCue.

Check out the following link that will take you directly to the special section on our website. We hope you'll find this a helpful teaching tool.

<http://www.icue.com/portal/site/iCue/chapter/?vgnnextchannel=314a2ef11ac65110VgnVCM10000a7c3d240RCRD&chapterchannel=d1fcb44e8fed110VgnVCM2000006fc3d240RCRD>

iCue (www.icue.com) is a free, educational website created by NBC News.

A very useful Washington Post articles has quotations from the "best and the worst inaugural speeches:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/daily/graphics/inaug_bestworst_011905.html

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Western Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

e-mail address_* _____

School or Institution _____

Position and Grade level

Dues: \$10.00 Amt. enclosed _____

Check made out to WPCSS

*** NOTE: Most communication will be handled by e-mail. Please include an e-mail address in order to be informed of coming events.**

Send application and dues to:

Leo R. West Treasurer

11533 Clematis Blvd.

Pittsburgh, PA 15235