

MOUNT VERNON HISTORY PROJECT
U.S. HISTORY
Mrs. Willems and Mr. Timm

Introduction to Project:

Throughout the summer of 2011, Mr. Timm and Mrs. Willems worked with Reverend Thomas and the Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission to find out how the U.S. History class in collaboration with the MVHPC to determine potential valuable projects that students could choose to engage in using primary documents in the study of history.

Students will be guided to choose an approved topic or activity and will be highly encouraged to choose a project that can also contribute to MVHPC archives and to our community as a whole.

Directions:

Once you have selected your topic and had it approved by Mrs. Willems or Mr. Timm, you then must choose how you are going to present your information. You are able to work individually or with a partner.

Topic:

Students will review the potential topics. Students should identify projects of interest and with the assistance of their teacher, what project(s) would be appropriate to complete. Students should have a list of two topics that they are excited to potentially complete by **Tuesday September 13th**.

Students will record their *approved* topic onto the shared Google document so we avoid repeats. Students may choose to work with one other partner from any other U.S. History section. No groups of three or more.

Research and Resources:

Due to the unique nature of the project, there is not an easy one size fits all for requirements regarding resources. The focus of research should include primary sources.

The required recording of resources will vary and should be approved by one of the instructors.

Completing the Project:

Your project will be completed ENTIRELY outside of class time. You need to plan ahead to manage your time – if you have a partner, plan the time you plan to work on your project together.

Due Date:

Tuesday October 25th – project presentations begin in class

****During presentations, we will decide as a group which of the projects are best suited to be shared on a community night in early November.**

Student Log:

Students are required to keep a journal log of the time spent out of class working on the MV History project. This should include specific dates, time and actions. This will be used for assessment.

Assessment:

The project will be worth 100 points.

The assessment will include teacher, self and peer evaluation – details to follow later.

Possible Projects:

Civil War soldiers in the cemetery - for Memorial Day Weekend

- American Legion working on list of CW vets buried in the cemetery

Civil War and women

- Amy White stories about women to share at Heritage Days
- year long projects

History of the Schools

- 1867 (?) UMC sold to city; 1891 addition - tower , 1902 2 more rooms
- 1886 added 10th grade, 1888 added 11th grade - ?? on 12th grade (1905-1910?)
- Ward School built 1912 - when did it end? Late 60s
- 1920s HS
- Washington School -long negotiation; oral history tape from RB Wolfe - public domain case with the Wests (two brothers Eli and ?) Bremner house and house on school corner were their homes; 5th Ave dead ended into what is the bus barn - had to push ave through to Palisades; town being drawn and developed to the south; concurrent with the bypass;
- New HS 1971 (or 72?)
- 4th addition of Washington School summer 2011
- Wooden Playground
- Current new high school
- School Board Records, retired teachers

Update the City Section of MV Centennial Book

- Mayors and City Council (90- now)
- Additions to the town - divisions and subdivisions (challenging)
- Graduating classes

Churches up to Date:

- Up to 1947 only First Pres and UMC
- St. Pauls, St. John's, Mormons, CBC, Seeds of Faith
- pictures and written records
- choose one to update the history

Local History Project:

- History of football field to present - WPA, lights, concessions, etc, "Save our Field"
- Oral History from Shirley Ryan, Jim Bellamy
- History of any athletic program - inception to present

Fire Station:

- 1877 County Fire District #1
- 1879 first fire engine
- Pictures of station including current and future station; story of the struggle (back to water tower)

Roundabout:

- Struggle over
- Construction of, photos, stories, etc

Parks:

- 1947 forward
- Memorial, Davis, Nature Park, Elliott Sports Complex, Bryant Road Park, skate park, early golf courses
- golf: Cornellton Interurban stop W of town, Ink Farm, In town, Country Club - late 1950s
- History of the parks, how we acquired the land
- Controversy over Nature Park and how was it acquired?

Photograph all Out Buildings:

Project already started

- Ben (intern) has notes on and directions on how to work on this project - he can come down and meet with students who are interested
- Ben will share how to effectively take, record the photos and upload and tag the photos
- 4 sections of town - need to know what block or alley the photo was taken in
- buildings behind houses - carriage houses, garages, anything not connected to the house - MVHP will decide if it should be documented
- Google Earth to match to address

Lincoln Highway

- Seedling Mile
- Lincoln Way Park and on the wall of the Lisbon History Center, by RR bridge, Bertram Fire Station, - series throughout the county
- Accommodations along the highway in the county
- Eisenhower traveled the Lincoln HWY from SF to DC, through Mount Vernon

WWII Veterans:

- USO - community sponsored - where did they meet? What did they do? Recreation?
- Oral Histories - People in their late 70s
- Navy Units at Cornell
- Flight training units at Cornell
- War at Home
- 1944 or 45, after the war, community had a large sign board with the names of the men who served; people remember it; where did it go? Believe it was in Memorial Park
- Letters home to the newspaper
- Put article in the Sun to solicit info

Vietnam

First Gulf War

Afghanistan

Iraq

- Oral Histories

Cemetery Records

- Women who have been checking the cemetery records against the cemetery
- Trying to update and make accurate
- Needs to be digitized and to become accessible - data entry

Oral Histories

12 or more to do this fall

Will prioritize and help to generate effective and meaningful guiding questions based on the person being interviewed

- list from Dick Thomas (319-329-8348 his cell) or (319-297-5591)
- prefer to videotape the oral history interview (get info from Ben on what kind of video)

Lisbon History Center

Volunteer on Saturday Mornings for various projects

Expectations for Projects:

- Leave something behind for future students and citizens of Mount Vernon

Goal:

Create a sub site that would share how to accomplish our project goals

- Bibliography of sources
- Community night - presentations
- Pick date and get it into the Sun in August
- Hosted by Mount Vernon Social Studies Department

Resources:

Centennial Book
City Council Minutes
County Records
Newspaper Archives - Cornell Catalog
Cemetery Records
Cornell A-Z
Mount Vernon Citizens
Yearbooks - Cornell and Mount Vernon

Scanning:

- slide scanner at Cornell Library
- can scan and make images into jpeg
- can scan and save onto USB
- contact: BenFln@yahoo.com (Ben is MV Historic Pres intern)

**HAVE PROJECT REWRITTEN FOR UPLOAD TO MVHISPRES
WEBSITE BY MONDAY THE 22nd.**

Contact info:

benfln@yahoo.com

rthomas@cornellcollege.edu

Time spent this summer - record:

2 hours - July 18th

2 hours - July 19th

hours - August 1st

MVHPC.org

History Toggle Bar - text or documents

Town history, Centennial book, Historic Districts

Database:

Virgil Crofter collection

Main Street

Bricks

Cemetery

Ivanhoe

Lincoln Hwy

Interurban

Funeral

Cornell Activities

Bridges

Railroad

Women

Washington Elementary School

School

Churches

Historic Eras - under text

Brick Making - history in IA - under text

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