

Electronic News Update from the
Michigan Council for History Education
January 7, 2010, Vol. VII, No. 5

Dear Colleagues,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Wow, what happened to the 'first decade' of the 21st century?

And, for those of you wondering why this issue is so late in January, let me recommend An Artist in Treason: The Extraordinary Double life of General James Wilkinson by Andro Linklater. I know, I should have gotten E-Notes out in late December, but was engrossed in the Wilkinson life story so ably told by Linklater.

The good? news is that this issue is filled with many unique items covering many aspects of both history and current events. I hope you both enjoy and benefit from the time you spend with MCHE's E-Notes. Generally, I learn much from editing this material.

Please complete the attached MCHE Conference survey and email back to MCHE Executive Director Jim Cameron. We value your opinions as we decide how best to provide professional programs for you next Fall.

With best wishes for an enjoyable and educational 2010!

Dr. Jim McConnell (jam1776@sbcglobal.net), Editor, MCHE E Notes

NOTE: The pdf attachment contains the same content as the message below. It is sent for those of you whose machines mess up the text of the E Notes. I hope this is helpful.

Also attached to this issue of MCHE E-Notes is a very valuable resource guide produced weekly by *Kathleen Marcacci*, "Detroit History and Cultural Heritage eCalendar of Events 01/06/10." You may want to check out the listed website or call the host organization to confirm details. If you would like to receive the weekly eCalendar, contact me at dkosh@msn.com. (NOTE: I highly recommend this E-newsletter for anyone interested in Detroit area events and institutions. Jim McC)

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1. MCHE Surveys Members for 2010 Conference Ideas (Attached as a pdf)

At its November Board meeting, MCHE decided to seek member suggestions for the time and location of the 2010 Conference. Realizing that school budgets will likely be reduced even more next school year and yet wishing to offer a worthwhile program for its members, we would appreciate hearing your thoughts. Also, we know that sometimes what we prefer is not always feasible. Please consider what might be best not only for yourself but also for your colleagues across the state.

2. You read it FIRST in MCHE E-Notes

Start planning now for the really Big birthday anniversary celebration! If you think the Bicentennial of the Birth of Abraham Lincoln was a great event (and it was), hold your breath for the special observance on Sunday, February 7, 2011, less than 14 months away. The Super Bowl will be held the day after 100th anniversary of the birth of Ronald Reagan on Feb. 6th. Stay tuned for updates.

3. Subscribe NOW to "The Journal of the War of 1812"

Looking for info on the War of 1812? Want to know where historic reenactments will be happening in the months ahead? Want to learn more about the "War that Made America?" Why not subscribe to the war of 1812 Journal: a quarterly publication. Subscription rate: \$17.50 (4 issues per year) 2 years, \$30 for individuals Make check payable to "War of 1812 Consortium, Inc." and mail c/o Star Spangled Banner Flag House, 844 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore MI 21202 E-mail for Editor: The1812Archive@gmail.com Subscription questions; call 813-671-8852 A pdf of the Summer 2009 issue is available at www.nps.gov/fomc/historyculture/upload/Journal%20Issue%2012-2.pdf

4. 35 Library of Congress Lessons Now Available

Working with Wayne RESA and Genesee ISD, MCHE has brought together a group of outstanding educators to create lessons using the "American Memory" website of the Library of Congress. J'Aime Holdebaum, an elementary teacher, has posted all of the lessons on her website for you use. We urge you to check out all of this great material and download all of the pdfs at

<http://educationextras.com/LibraryofCongressLessons.html>

5. 50th Anniversary of JFK Inauguration

Time to read Teddy White's classic book *The Making of the President 1960*.

6. Look! Death and Reburial of Stevens T. Mason

Stevens T. Mason, Michigan's first elected governor, died January 4, 1843 - exactly 167 years ago today. In 1905, his body was exhumed from a New York cemetery and reburied in Detroit. Read about this fascinating event here: <http://seekingmichigan.org/look/2010/01/04/boy-governor>

Look! Holiday Crafts in the Great Depression

State Archivist Mark Harvey looks at a 1930s holiday craft book by a New Deal agency. Learn how to make an "apple Santa Claus!" (It just takes an apple, a marshmallow and a few small ingredients.). Here's the link: <http://seekingmichigan.org/look/2009/12/22/crafting-the-holidays-out-of-a-depression>

Finally, I invite everyone to check out the latest issue of MICHIGAN GENEALOGIST, a quarterly genealogy newsletter of the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan:

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-37818_51985_38271-227244--,00.html

(from Bob Garrett, Archives of Michigan, Communications Division. DNR)

7. Library of Michigan (MDE) announces 2010 Notable Books

The Library of Michigan has released the list of 2010 Michigan Notable Books - 20 books highlighting Michigan people, places, and events. "This year's selections prove that persevering through economic and personal hardship is nothing new for Michiganders, and that this enduring and independent spirit has a long, rich history in the Great Lakes State," said state Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan. To get a pdf of the titles, visit www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-54504---,00.html

8. Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society offers lesson plans

For info on the MSCHS, please visit www.micourthistory.org. There, you will find details about the Society, how to become a member, upcoming events, a Court History and Timeline. Education materials include: Lesson Plans, an article on the History, Role and Organization of the MSC, a Justice Biography Quiz, a link to the MSC Learning Center, and more. Check it out!

9. New Dates for HSM 2010 State History Conference in Frankenmuth

The Historical Society of Michigan reports that its 2010 State History Conference in Frankenmuth, originally planned for late September, has been rescheduled. The new dates for the 136th Annual Meeting and State History Conference are October 15-17, 2010. For more info, visit www.hsmichigan.org or call (800) 692-1828.

10. The New Michigan History Magazine is Now available

The Historical Society of Michigan welcomes *Michigan History* magazine with the new issue now available. It was transferred from the State of Michigan to the non-profit Historical Society of Michigan on October 1, 2009. Get (or give) six issues of the magazine for less than \$20 a year! Or bundle it in with a membership in HSM for less than \$40! Call (800) 366-3703 today to order the magazine or give it as gift to a loved one! Michigan History magazine: 1-year: \$19.95; 2-years: \$34.95 Visit

www.hsmichigan.org/mhm/subscribe.html for more info. To learn more about Michigan History magazine or the Historical Society of Michigan visit www.hsmichigan.org .

11. History Education Council of Hawaii creates website

The HECH now publishes a news-blog at www.historyeducationhawaii.org. The news-blog is at historyeducationhawaii.blogspot.com. It is updated with online-based news about teacher professional development opportunities, educational resources, links to article, events and so forth. Historically yours, Jeffrey Bingham Mead, President, History Education Council of Hawaii, Inc., 345 Queen Street, Suite 607, Honolulu HI 96813 Web: www.historyeducationhawaii.org News-blog: historyeducationhawaii.blogspot.com YouTube: www.youtube.com/historyedhawaii Mail: historyeducationhawaii@gmail.com

12. ArtServe Michigan: Let's Save Michigan Campaign

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you all to the Let's Save Michigan campaign, a project of the Michigan Municipal League. The Let's Save Michigan campaign is a statewide grassroots effort to get Michiganders to take ownership of our future and get involved. Through our personal actions and with the right policies and legislation in place, Michigan can create the vibrant cities that will attract 21st century workers and a more diverse and resilient economy. Please visit www.letssavemichigan.com to sign up for a newsletter and learn more about the campaign and how you can make a difference. (from ArtServe)

13. New Web-Based High School History Program!

Created by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, *The Idea of America* brings to life the entire span of our nation's rich history, from its early beginnings to the 21st century. It is a fully digital, Web-based high school American history program designed to engage and prepare students for active citizenship. The program will be available for the 2010–2011 school year and will be distributed by Pearson Education.

The Idea of America does what textbooks cannot: it immerses students in a stimulating, interactive, learning experience! Learn more at <http://pearsonschool.com/index.cfm?locator=PSZIJy>

14. Shannon White Named Assistant Director of Historical Society of Michigan

The Historical Society of Michigan is pleased to announce the appointment of Shannon D. White as Assistant Director. White was appointed as Education and Awards Coordinator in summer 2008. In her new role she will work closely with Executive Director Larry Wagenaar. White's responsibilities will include a continued focus on leading the Society's educational programs, including Michigan History Day (National History Day in Michigan), the Mulling Over Michigan educators conference, and the Society's awards and recognition programs. She will also provide additional leadership and insight to the circulation and sales components of *Michigan History* magazine, the Society's various conferences, and other aspects of the Society's operations. "Shannon is an outstanding colleague" commented Executive Director Larry Wagenaar. "Her leadership and project management abilities – as well as her extensive skill set – are an important asset for HSM." For more info, visit www.hsmichigan.org or call (800) 692-1828.

15. Legislation aims to aid Mich. schools "Race to the Top"

In December, the state legislature passed a series of transformational bills aimed at closing the state's academic achievement gap and improving education for 1.6 million public school students in Michigan. Prompted by the mid-January deadline to apply for a \$400-\$600 million share of the \$4.35 billion in federal "Race to the Top" education funds, these bills were signed into law by Governor Granholm on Mon., Jan. 4, 2010. The new laws: **Gives the state more power to take over weak schools. ** Requires annual checks on each student's progress and allows merit pay to teachers whose students progress. **Allows more charter schools if they meet standards.** Allows two statewide cyber-schools for struggling students and dropouts. **Raises the legal dropout age from 16 to 18. ** Allows professionals to be certified to teach without a four-year teaching degree. For more info, visit www.michiganlegislature.org

16. River Raisin Battlefield Plans Events for January

(A) "Dance through Time IV"

The Monroe War of 1812 Bicentennial Steering Committee cordially invites you to attend the "Dancer Through Time IV" on Fri., Jan. 22, at the La-Z-Boy Center/Meyer Theatre at Monroe County Community College, 6 - 9 pm Program features the Madame Cadillac Dance Theatre of Detroit. For more info or to purchase tickets call 734.242.1976

(B) 197th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battles Of The River Raisin, January 23rd, Held at the River Raisin Battlefield, 1403 East Elm Ave, Monroe Mi, 48162 Join the many participants from Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Canada, along with Native Americans and residents of Monroe Michigan as we remember this bloody battle and massacre that took place on January 22nd and 23rd, 1813. The

commemoration is held on the very ground along the River Raisin where hundreds of lives were lost protecting our freedom in the early years of the United States. Information & tickets available at www.monroeccc.edu/theater or calling 734-384-4272

17. Grand Valley Summit on Health Care Reform on Jan. 28-29

A Two-Day Conference, January 28-29, 2010, Grand Valley's Loosemore Auditorium, 401 Fulton Street West, Grand Rapids, MI Join Grand Valley's Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, College of Community and Public Service, College of Health Professions, Kirkhof College of Nursing, and Department of Political Science for a two-day conference featuring some of the nation's foremost policy experts. For conference details and to register, visit www.allpresidents.org The event is free. Because space is limited, please click here to reserve your seat, or call (616) 331-2770.

18. Why not visit the Dennos Museum in Traverse City?

The newsletter from the Dennos Center at Northwestern Michigan College always has interesting articles describing their programs and events. You might especially enjoy "River of Gold: Precolumbian Treasures from Sitio Conte," open to- MARCH 28, 2010. This exhibit presents more than 120 exquisitely crafted pieces of Precolumbian goldwork from the University of Pennsylvania Museum's 1940 excavations at the ancient cemetery site of Sitio Conte in what is now central Panama. The exhibition includes large embossed plaques, cast pendants and nose ornaments, gold-sheathed ear rods, and necklaces of intricate beads-as well as polychrome ceramics, and objects made of precious and semi-precious stones, whale-tooth ivory, and bone. For more info on this exhibit and other programs, visit www.dennosmuseum.org

19. Court-martial of man who gave up city starts

The court-martial of Gen. William Hull -- who gave up Detroit to the British without a fight during the War of 1812 -- began Jan. 3, 1814. Hull, who also served as Michigan's territorial governor, made that decision because he feared British rumors that local American Indians would kill all the Detroit residents. Deemed a coward, Hull was found guilty of dereliction of duty and sentenced to death, but President James Madison later reduced it because of the officer's impressive Revolutionary War record of service. Historians later concluded that Hull's actions in August 1812 were correct. He died in 1825 at age 72 in his native New England. (From Zlati Meyer, "This Week in Michigan History," Jan. 3, 2010, www.freep.com)

20. History Day Update

The National History Day District Competitions will be held in late February/early March at locations across the state. For example, the Southeast Michigan competitions is set for Sat., March 6, 2010, at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. All students, grades 4-12, are invited to participate. Students from public, private, parochial schools and those who are home schooled are welcome. While it works well for an entire class to participate, one or two students in a particular class are eligible as well as individual students not representing any particular school. The theme for 2010 is *Innovation in History: Impact and Change*. For more info, visit www.hsmichigan.org/mhd Additional information is available at the National History Day website, www.nhd.org Three finalists in each category at the District Competition will advance to the Michigan History Day state finals at the Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn, on Saturday, April 24, 2010. Finalists in the Junior and Senior Divisions then have the opportunity to advance to National History Day, June 13-17, 2010 in College Park, Maryland. I look forward to working with you on successful award winning entries. Contact information:: Hugh Gurney, 2270 Hickory Circle Drive, Howell, MI 48855 (517) 545-2979 or hgurney@hsmichigan.org

21. NEH offers Outstanding Summer Learning Experiences for Teachers

Teachers and college faculty, apply now through March 2 to attend an NEH-sponsored 2010 summer study program. For a complete listing of Summer 2010 Workshops offered by the National endowment for the

Humanities, please visit www.neh.gov Among the many offerings are:

(A) Landmarks of American History and Culture: Workshops for Schoolteachers at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield and Drury University, Springfield, Missouri

June 14-18, 2010 or June 21-25, 2010

(B) Exploring the Past: Archaeology in the Upper Mississippi River Valley

The Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse will offer a three-week NEH Summer Institute on July 12-30, 2010.

22. The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History offers Summer Seminars

Apply now for a weeklong, intensive summer seminar with a renowned American historian. Choose from 39 seminars taking place at colleges and universities across the United States and in the UK. Important Calendar Dates: •February 15, 2010 - Application Deadline •April 1, 2010 - Acceptance Notification; For full list of programs, descriptions and applications, visit www.gilderlehrman.org

23. Statehood Day celebrated at Michigan Historical Center, January 23: Lansing

Join the Michigan Statehood Day Celebration at the Michigan Historical Museum. The Statehood Day celebration gathers together crafters, costumed interpreters and musicians for the enjoyment of the entire family. Come early! The first 100 visitors enjoy a piece of birthday cake. The event is free. For more info on specific times for activities, call (517) 373-3559 or visit http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-54463_54464_18628-102129--,00.html

24. "History Detectives" meet January 16 at Grand Rapids Public Library

Join the Grand Rapids Public Library for their event "History Detectives: Following Clues to Michigan's Past." Historic preservationist Rebecca Smith-Hoffman and education historian Laurie Catherine Perkins will join GRPL staff member Jennifer Morrison in teaching participants how to discover more about Michigan's history. Topics will include "The Peck Building: Searching for the Story of a Landmark," "Adventure, Romance and Mystery: Cookbooks at Mid-Twentieth Century," and "Talking Tombstones: Exploring the Mysteries of Oakhill Cemetery." Registration is required. Visit www.grpl.org/register or call (616) 988-5400 to sign up. Free and open to the public.

25. And Still They Prospered: Living Through the Great Depression, February 27 - May 8,

The Lorenzo Cultural Center, Macomb Community College, takes a look at one of the most difficult times in United States history. Learn about innovation, courage & perseverance, creativity, cooperation & compassion, escapism and the financial collapse. Along with a fascinating exhibit, this Macomb Community Collect project includes many special presentations, including the highly-acclaimed "Speaker Series" featuring **David Kennedy - The Great Depression Revisited, Thursday, March 11, 2010 - 7 p.m.** Presentation: \$15; \$5 Seniors/Students/Military Presentation and Meet & Greet: \$30 (5:30 - 6:30 p.m.) Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and author and **Alan Brinkley - Legacies of the New Deal, Thursday, April 29, 2010 - 7 p.m.** Presentation: \$15; \$5 Seniors/Students/Military; Presentation and Meet & Greet: \$30 (5:30 - 6:30 p.m.) Alan Brinkley, professor of history at Columbia University, author of the biography, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Most programs are free.

26. Support Your Community with the Humanities in 2010

Dear Friends, I hope you are having a wonderful and safe holiday season with family and friends. At this time of year we traditionally give thanks and show appreciation. And now is the perfect time to remember where the humanities shine in your daily life, what the varied disciplines-history, literature, religion, law, philosophy, and the arts-have given to you, and how much poorer we would be in a less diverse, less brilliant Michigan. By making a donation today, you can help make sure the Michigan Humanities Council has the resources it needs to continue offering free, public humanities programs in your community and bolstering

the good work of the schools, libraries, and cultural institutions that have suffered deep cuts from our state budget crisis - thank you! Best wishes, Jan Fedewa, Executive Director, Michigan Humanities Council. For more info, visit www.michiganhumanities.org

27. Michigan Constitutional Convention News: Vote YES On Proposal One In Nov. 2010, Part-Time State Legislature and Other Con Con Issues: A majority of recently polled Michigan residents, at least one Republican candidate for Governor and our current Governor have all expressed support for a part-time state legislature. Only at a con con will this topic ever be discussed with any serious chance of being presented to voters. Other issues for a con con include: education funding, taxation, government restructuring, business and labor matters, etc. These and other critical issues are not being addressed by our Legislature. What good are reform proposals if they are never presented to the voters for adoption? Henry S. Woloson - hwoloson@EnergizeMichigan.com, The Energize Michigan Committee, 7608 Dixie Hwy, Suite 100, Clarkston, MI For more info or to subscribe to their E-New, visit www.energizemichigan.com (EDITOR'S NOTE: This will be a critical issue facing Michigan voters in 2010. The above group is advocating a "YES" vote. My thanks to former state Superintendent Tom Watkins for sharing this info with me. Educators should appraise their students of both pro and con positions throughout the school year. If you find a valid website with other info, please share it with me at jam1776@sbcglobal.net)

28. Celebrating History in 2010

- 750th Anniversary of consecration of Chartres Cathedral (1260)
- 500th Anniversary of Death of Botticelli (1510)
- 400th Anniversary of Death of Michelangelo (1610)
- 300th Anniversary of Removal of Cadillac from Command in Detroit (1710)
- 250th anniversary of Surrender of Fort Pontchartrain (Detroit) by French to British (1760)
- Bicentennial of Methodists organizing first Protestant church group in Detroit (1810)
- Bicentennial of Mexican War of Independence (1820)
- Centennial of Mexican Revolution (1910)
- Centennial of Founding of N.A.A.C.P. (1910)
- Centennial of Ford Highland Park Plant (1910)

29. New momentum for Michigan arts By John Bebow - December 3, 2009

After suffering years of state funding cuts, Michigan's arts and culture sector is rallying for a comeback. ArtServe Michigan, the state's leading arts advocacy voice, is hailing a new ticket tax bill introduced in the State House last month by Rep. George Cushingberry, chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Cush's bill would create a 2 percent tax on admissions to zoos, live theater, opera, museums, and professional and college sporting events. The revenues would provide a sustainable funding stream for arts and culture grants across the state. Such grants have been cut from about \$50 million in the 1980s to near zero today — in seeming contradiction to the conventional wisdom that Michigan must invest in highly attractive "placemaking" to attract and retain entrepreneurial talent and companies. At the same time, a statewide "cultural data project" in 2010 will show the Michigan arts and culture industry's "economic impact and... the collective financial health of the sector and trends over time," Nevill Vakharia, a project director at the Pew Charitable Trusts, told Crain's Detroit Business last month. "I think sometimes people view the arts as fluff, but... the arts community has real jobs across the state," Melonie Colaianne, president of the Masco Corp. Foundation and an ArtServe board member, told Crain's. "It's important to the entire state to understand the arts serve as an economic engine, and that doesn't seem to be recognized." (from The Center for Michigan, www.thecenterformichigan.net)

30. Wayne State University Press 2009 Holiday Book Sale through January 15, 2010!!

Check out their offerings of Detroit art and architecture and history and culture books! And save 25% to 40% on your order!! Visit wsupress.wayne.edu/holiday

31. American Revolution Center Releases National Survey Results: 83 Percent of U.S. Adults Fail Test on Nation's Founding

For more info about the survey, or about the mission and activities of The American Revolution Center, visit www.AmericanRevolutionCenter.org. SOURCE: *American Revolution Center* (12-3-09)

32. From History News Network

(A) Teaching What Really Happened: How To Avoid the Tyranny of Textbooks and Get Students Excited About Doing History By James Loewen [From the publisher] In this follow-up to his landmark bestseller, *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*, Loewen goes beyond the usual textbook-dominated curriculum to illuminate a wealth of intriguing, often hidden facts about America's past. Calling for a new way to teach history, this book offers teachers specific ideas for how to get students excited about history, how to get them to DO history, and how to help them read critically. It will specifically help teachers tackle difficult but important topics like the American Indian experience, slavery, and race relations. Throughout, Loewen shows how "teaching what really happened" not only connects better with all kinds of students, it better prepares those students to be tomorrow's citizens.

(B) More Highlights from the History News Network

- *Guatemala tourism capitalizing on '2012' <http://hnn.us/roundup/41.html#121270>
 - *Congress maintaining history budgets <http://hnn.us/roundup/14.html#121415>
 - *20 questions: Historian Thomas Fleming <http://hnn.us/roundup/14.html#121414>
 - *Historians seek \$1.5M for Tecumseh memorial <http://hnn.us/roundup/14.html#121413>
- Go here for a complete list of news stories about historians: <http://hnn.us/roundup/14.html>

33. An AMAZING site!

For a fascinating collection of materials on the Mapping of the West after Lewis & Clark, be certain to visit the Library of Congress site <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/lewisandclark/lewis-after.html> the Exhibit is called "Rivers, Edens, Empires." it is truly a wonderful collection of primary source materials and related background information.

34. Colonial Williamsburg offers Electronic Field Trip, "Westward!" (premiere) January 14, Explore the story of the early days of American westward expansion. Daniel Boone recounts the exciting experiences and unexpected consequences associated with moving west. Learn about the risks and grueling personal hardships of creating new settlements. For more information about the EmmyAward-winning series of live, interactive television broadcasts, teacher guides, and online resources call 1.800.761.8331, email EFTSupport@cwf.org or visit www.history.org/trips

35. *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*, the Great Michigan Read, and "Vietnamese in Michigan" Exhibit offered by Michigan Humanities Council

(A) Great Michigan Read Expands to 240 Partners

More than 240 organizations across Michigan are currently participating in the *Great Michigan Read's* efforts to engage people to read and discuss *Stealing Buddha's Dinner* by Bich Minh Nguyen (pronounced bit-min-win). Books can be found at Meijer stores, your local library, or booksellers.

(B) Fremont Welcomes *Their Journey: Vietnamese in Michigan*

The Michigan Humanities Council's exhibit, *Their Journey: Vietnamese in Michigan*, was developed to complement *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*. The exhibit was installed at the Fremont Area Public Library on January 4, where it will remain until January 26. It is free and open to the public. The exhibit will travel to Ann Arbor in February, Traverse City in March, Morenci in April, and Hartland in May. For more info, please visit www.michiganhumanities.org, or call (517) 372-7770