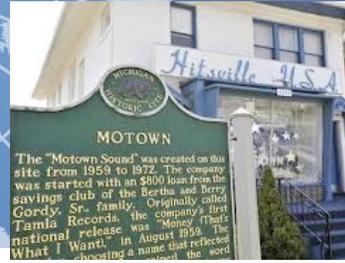


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News & Ideas



Welcome back to the MCSS Toolbox. Elections are always important. While the Presidential Election draws the most voters, he president is usually the last one to affect our lives. Congressional and local elections usually have a more immediate and direct effect on citizens. **Vote Wisely!**

From the Editor-

When I was a social studies teacher at Northern High School in Detroit my department head, Gene Link, used to bring in local candidates to speak to classes at election time. He, with my help at least once, held a mock election with the actual paper ballots used by voters. My job one year was, with the help of my classes, count the votes. After all that work, we could not reveal the results until the *real* election was over so as to not sway the adults. All in all, I believe these were valuable experiences for my students.



I believe there are items in this issue to possibly help with teaching about elections as well as teaching social studies in general.

Articles related directly to elections and voting are in Bold.

There are announcement about two important events coming up this spring. Additional details available on the MCSS website.

Next are a multitude of ideas and information from Jim McConnell which may provide ideas for your teaching, K-16, including the up and coming **Semiquincentennial** (yes, that is spelled correctly)..

As I put this issue together towards the last day of summer, I notice two things. There are no

contributions from MCSS members who are not on the Toolbox editorial board. Secondly, and often a criticism in the past of NCSS, there is a dearth of articles for teachers of younger students. As a secondary teacher who became molded into an elementary teacher, I do know after many years of experience, young students can be taught the same ideas as older ones. It does take some practice to present lessons which do not gloss over the eyes of a class and may even induce sleep. We need more ideas for elementary and middle school students/teachers. Lastly, there are many more disciplines in social studies besides history.

I agree with our MCSS president, "NCSS is in Philadelphia this year from December 2-4, 2022. If you have never attended, I highly encourage you to try to attend. NCSS offers first-time attendee scholarships to offset the cost of registration and Philadelphia is a fantastic city with a lot of great history!" Not only can a trip to NCSS in Philadelphia be a great experience, it may also be tax-deductible. Go forth and learn!!

I would be remiss if I did not thank Jim McConnell and his associate (wife) Annette for the many contributions here. Also, thanks to Sharon Elliott who proofs this and makes (strong) suggestions for editing the final copy.

-Bob Pettapiece



Editorial Board

- Bob Pettapiece, Editor/Publisher
- Jim McConnell, Contributing Editor
- Sharon Elliott, Copy Editor



MICHIGAN SOCIAL STUDIES OLYMPIAD

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2022 Results

If you have not seen the winning collages from the 2022 Olympiad, they are at <https://mcssmi.org/olympiad22>. The collages are colorful and impressive.

The Spring Conference is in Traverse City!
What better excuse to travel Up North.

For more information go to <https://mcssmi.org/olympiad22>

SAVE THE DATE

Change, Conflict, and Controversy



Social Studies in the Cherry Capital



Friday, April 14, 2023-Saturday April 15, 2023

Grand Traverse Resort - Traverse City Michigan

News & Views from Jim McConnell

Contributing Editor

History of *The Star-Spangled Banner*

If you are looking for a great summer read, I suggest a new book titled “O Say Can You Hear” by Mark Clague, University of Michigan Music

Professor. It’s about the fantastic history of our National Anthem.

To see a great video with the author and to Mark discuss his

new books, on CSPAN 3, American History Television.

visit <https://www.c-span.org/video/?521218-1/qa-mark-clague-history-star-spangled-banner#>



Where is the “GRIFFON”?

Livonia historian Joe Nussendorfer recently shared a [link](#) to an interesting presentation on the Griffon, the first European-style sailing ship to navigate the Upper Great Lakes. It is thought to have sunk during a storm in Lake Michigan.

Rosie Rios Designated Chair of U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission

Former Treasurer of the United States Rosie Rios has been designated as the Chair for the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, the Congressional Commission charged with planning the nation’s 250th anniversary in 2026.

Rios was first appointed to the Commission on January 11, 2018, and was designated to be chair by President Biden. The Chair of the Commission was formerly held by Dan DiLella, who will continue to serve as a commissioner.

“I’m very proud to lead this historic effort, and I am grateful for this opportunity,” U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission Chair Rosie Rios said. “Bringing the country together to recognize the nation’s founding after 250 years is one of the greatest honors one can experience personally, but it will also provide an opportunity for all of us to share our collective experiences of what it means to be an American on a global platform. To learn more about plans for America’s 250th birthday party, visit <https://www.america250.org>

News from the Michigan History Center, DNR

Fresh from a successful collaboration project to digitize Michigan’s naturalization records, the Archives of Michigan has again partnered with the nonprofit FamilySearch.org to digitize, index and make publicly available some 66 years of Wayne County probate court records. The records of Michigan’s county probate courts are a trove of historical information with sought-after items such as civil case judgments and detailed lists of estates.

Due to a change in the amount of time local governments are to hold court records before transferring them to the Archives of Michigan.

In 2017 the Archives began actively collecting county probate records from all 83 Michigan counties. Wayne County, with one of the largest court systems, is one of the first counties to work with the Archives to prepare its backlog of case files for transfer. Over a three-year period, county staff sorted and boxed the 1901-1967 court records, ultimately transferring 2,100 boxes packed on 60 pallets.

This exciting partnership with FamilySearch.org is one of the largest in the country, and volunteers, 10 full-time FamilySearch.org volunteer staff and 12 Michigan History Center volunteers, are making it work. At peak production, the team will operate seven cameras and process 1,000 images per day, per camera. It is exactly the type of collaboration that allows the Archives of Michigan to continue increasing access to public records in new and evolving ways.

Smithsonian offers *Explore America* Information

Log-time friend Geven Witteveen told me about the Explore America’ website, with a great collection from Michigan. Explore America and discover people, places, art, history, and other items related to Michigan in the Smithsonian’s growing digitized collections.

Held in trust for the American people, the Smithsonian’s collections document the country’s history, art from across the globe, scientific discovery, and the vast wonders of the natural and cultural world. Visit Smithsonian Open Access to download, share, and reuse millions of the Smithsonian’s 2D and 3D images. Check out <https://www.si.edu/spotlight/michigan>

Bridge produces 2022 Michigan Election Guide

The Center for Michigan Bridge has emptied an amazing collection of articles, reports, and issues analysis to help prepare Michigan voters as they begin to cast their ballots in the Tuesday, November 8th, Election. Please make use of their wonderful resource with your students and with others in your community. Check it out at <https://www.bridgemi.com/michigans-guide-elections-2022>

From Michigan Council for History Education

NCHE seeks session proposals for National Conference in Salt Lake City, March 23-25[2023, and offers Early Bird Registration until Nov 1st

Michigan history teachers are encouraged to submit session proposals and become active participants in the most exciting history gathering of the year. Along with featured keynote speakers that include Luis Martínez-Fernandex, and Jereie Suri, University of Texas at Austin. There are many small group sessions exhibitors, field trips, and much more. Information and registration details at <https://ncheteach.org>

November 8 Election Day looms large for educators

MCHE encourages all educators to focus their attention on helping students and the community become more informed citizens. Regardless of whether you tend to support a party or consider yourself an independent, there are many officials to be elected beyond the so-called *top of the tickets*. Along with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State Attorney General, and legislators, all Michigan voters can vote for members of the State Board of Education, the governing bodies of Michigan, Michigan State, and Wayne State. Two individuals will be elected to the nonpartisan Michigan Supreme Court. Many local school districts also have elections for their Board of Education. Remember, the ballots will be available for absentee voting about 40 days prior to the November 8th Election Day.



A Tribute to David McCullough

David Gaub McCullough was an American author, narrator, popular historian, and lecturer. He was a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. In 2006, he was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom, one of the United States highest civilian awards. He was a very active board member of the National Council for History Education and Wikipedia

Born: July 7, 1933, Pittsburgh, PA

Died: August 7, 2022, in Hingham, Massachusetts

Ted Everingham, Albion College, 1961 history major, wrote: “I was saddened by the death of David McCullough this week. His books on Truman, John Adams and young Teddy Roosevelt, and about American events (e.g., the Brooklyn Bridge, the Jamestown flood and the Wright Brothers flight) were marvelous. In reading of his life and work these last few days, I came upon a video of a conversation McCullough had in 2011 before a live audience at the Library of Congress. Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/7LRZ3AaBl0>’.

I recommend the the obituary [Historian David McCullough dies at 89](#)

Volunteers give a big boost to public records access

Fresh from a successful collaboration project to digitize Michigan’s naturalization records, the Archives of Michigan has again partnered with the nonprofit FamilySearch.org to digitize, index and make publicly available some 66 years of Wayne County probate court records. The records of Michigan’s county probate courts are a trove of historical information with sought after items such as civil case judgments and detailed lists of estates.

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and boxed the 1901-1967 court records, ultimately transferring 2,100 boxes packed on 60 pallets.

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Bridge discusses possible MDE Social Studies Standards Updater.

An excellent article has recently been published by *Bridge* (The Center for Michigan) that provides background on Native American curriculum that could be addressed in the MI Social Studies standards. The article is [Michigan to Deepen Native American History in Social Studies Standards](#)

History Channel tells the story of Theodore Roosevelt

The story is produced by world-renowned presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize winning bestselling author Doris Kearns Goodwin, Appian Way's Jennifer Davisson and Leonardo DiCaprio with Radical Media. This five-hour television event is based upon Goodwin's New York Times bestseller, *Leadership: In Turbulent Times* and will provide a rich, panoramic portrait of the [first modern President of the United States](#).



What do you know about the Battle of Valcour Island?

I am listening to Nathaniel Philbrick's new book *Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution*. As I listened to his description of the strategy, the actual conflict and the aftermath, I am amazed that little information is available in our history books. The outstanding military success took place on Lake Champlain in October 1776. The American commander at this encounter with a larger British

naval force was Benedict Arnold. Yes, he's the guy we all know as the greatest American traitor. As we approach the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution (1775-1783), I urge you to add Philbrick's book along with the other two in his American Revolution trilogy. For details, see the Semiquincentennial Reading List.

Semiquincentennial Reading Recommendations

Without question, the most comprehensive and readable account of the American Revolution that I have read recently is *The Glorious Cause: The American Revolution, 1763-1789*, (Oxford History of the United States) Revised Edition by Robert Middlekauff. (Amazon readers rated it 4.6 out of 5 stars.) I especially appreciated his extensive coverage from 1763 through the 1789, establishment of the United States government under the Constitution and his discussion of both British and American perspectives of the conflict.

Other books of note, listed alphabetically by author, include:

Atkinson, Rick, *The British Are Coming: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777*, 2019

Brands, H.W., *Our First Civil War: Patriots and Loyalists in the American Revolution* (Doubleday, 2021, 496 pps.)

DeRose, Chris, *Founding Rivals: Madison vs. Monroe, the Bill of Rights, and the Election That Saved a Nation*.

Fischer, David Hackett, *Washington's Crossing*, Oxford University Press (same topics as McCullough's "1776" but more academic/scholarly).

McCullough, David, 1776

Philbrick, Nathaniel, *In the Hurricane's Eye: The Genius of George Washington and the Victory at Yorktown* (The American Revolution Series Book 3) Oct. 16, 2018

Philbrick, Nathaniel, *Bunker Hill: A City, A Siege, A Revolution* (The American Revolution Series Book 1) Apr 30, 2013

Philbrick, Nathaniel, *Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution* (The American Revolution Series)

if you do not bother to vote, you have support the winner.

And, most notably, a new book by Nathaniel Philbrick recommended to me by colleague Jim Perie, *Travels with George: In Search of Washington and His Legacy*, 2021. It is a tremendously enjoyable read! Very unique.

(If you have other suggestions for this list, please email Jim McConnell, jam1776@sbcglobal.net)

Michigan Voters face THREE Ballot Proposals

Bridge (The entry for Michigan) has posted three articles, each analyzing one of the three ballot proposals facing Michigan voters on Tuesday, November 8 (with Absentee Ballot Voting in the previous 40 days). I hope you find this information worthwhile. To learn more about The Center for Michigan and subscribe to the free newsletter “Bridge” offers Michigan’s Guide to the 2022 Election

You can use a chart to learn the “Partisan Leaning” of each of the new U.S. Congress, State Senate and State House of Representative districts. Check out who might win in your 3 districts. You might also enjoy seeing which districts are going to get the most campaign funds as both parties and related interest groups try to gain control of each branch of the [Michigan legislature](#).

PROPOSAL ONE

Term limits ballot measure: What Proposal 1 means for Michigan

Proposal 1 would limit lawmakers’ terms to 12 years total and strengthen financial disclosure rules.

PROPOSAL TWO:

Voting rights ballot measure: [What Proposal 2 would change in Michigan](#)

PROPOSAL THREE:

[Abortion campaign ramps up after Michigan ballot issue clears last hurdle](#)

Michigan Students invited to participant in National History Day

Michigan History Day, a project-based learning program of the Historical Society of Michigan, is a

yearlong educational program that encourages students to explore local, state, national, and world history. Also known as National History Day in Michigan, winners of the state level competition move on to compete in National History Day.

After selecting a historical topic that relates to the annual theme, students conduct extensive research. They analyze and interpret their findings, draw conclusions about their significance in history, and create final projects. For more information, visit www.hsmichigan.org

Zoom to *History Hounds*” from the Historical society of Michigan

HSM offers History Hounds weekly virtual programs on a wide variety of interesting Michigan history topics. The programs are free to all HSM

members and to members of groups having an HSM organizational membership, such as dues-paying MCHE members. You can enjoy the content from the comfort and safety of your home. For details and to register for [History Hound](#).



Celebrate Unique Holidays each Month of the Year

Resources on unique holidays celebrated in diverse cultures and faiths are posted. You can see the [full article](#)

Check out the MCHE Award Winners for 2022

MCHE Board Member and Webmaster Scott Durham has posted three interesting interviews with the 2022 MCHE History Educator recipients. Each Interview is an inspiration to all of us in the history education world. This year featured are:

Annette and Jim McConnell Award:

- Elementary - Alexander Popkey, Mitchell Elementary School (Ann Arbor)
- Secondary - Bernard Charles, Renaissance High School (Detroit)
- Pre-Service - Andy Campbell, Michigan State University



Gilder-Lehrman History Teacher Award - Ryan Werenka, Troy High School

Watch History Teachers of the Year In a conversation about their teaching practice The interviews are posted on MCHE home [page](#).

George Washington’s Mount Vernon

George Washington’s Mount Vernon currently offers three distance learning programs and provides special discounts for Title One schools. The programs could be tweaked for a variety of grade levels. Topics include a virtual tour of Mount Vernon, a *Be Washington* program, and an *Enslaved People of Mount Vernon* tour. Each program is approximately 60 minutes in length. For more information, see <https://www.mountvernon.org/education/distance-learning-programs/>.

Library of Congress: 1900 America: Primary Sources and Epic Poetry.

To better understand the United States at the end of the nineteenth century. This interdisciplinary lesson integrates historical primary sources with literary analysis. Students work in groups and express themselves creatively through a multimedia [epic poem](#).

PBS: Lesson Plan. 4.1

Miles: The Global Refugee Crisis: A Community Responds. Using a video from POV (Point of View) this lesson helps students in analyzing and thinking creatively when working with refugees by putting the students into the lives of refugees and the people who experience the influx of refugees around the world. The video focuses on the eastern Mediterranean, but relates to the problems created around the world today with the number of people fleeing dangerous [circumstances](#).



From MCSS President, Kymberli Wregglesworth- if you’re planning to teach the election or other controversial issues this fall, you may need some guidance on making sure you’re doing it constructively. Check out what my friends over at

iCivics have put together in bite-sized pieces to help! <https://www.icivics.org/professional-development/your-roadmap-teaching-controversial-issues>



MICHIGAN ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION
“Preserving Michigan Voices.”

- Conference Theme: “Everyone Has a Story”
- * Oral History in the World of Librarians
 - *Creating, Promoting, and Growing a University Archives
 - *Oral Histories for Genealogists
 - *Enhance Your Museum Exhibits with Oral History
 - *Incorporating Oral Histories in the Classroom
 - * Interviewing Politicians, Do’s and Don’ts
 - *Taking Oral History One Step Further
 - * Oral History and Detroit Autoworkers 1950s
 - *Michigan State Police OHP: “No pain, no gain”
 - *The Stolen Narrative of the Bulgarian Jews and the Holocaust

*Language, Mobility, and Michigan Travelers to the Middle East

Voters Not Politicians Education Fund is also preparing to protect the rights of voters during the election by recruiting 500 Nonpartisan Poll Challengers for

Election Day. These volunteers will have the critical role of protecting and defending our democracy by being the voter’s advocate, monitoring election officials and ensuring they follow all procedures and statutes. Being a poll challenger is only a one day commitment, and it is the only way to guarantee voters have an advocate with them in polling places who are solely focused on protecting their fundamental right to vote.

Editor’s advice to all voters; *there is no such person as a perfect candidate, only the one who supports ideas closest to yours. Vote wisely.*



News from Population Education-

Global population challenges are real. Have your students make a video to share your solution

One student or a small group can change the future of eight billion

[Details start at <https://www.worldof8billion.org/>]

The *World of 8 Billion* student video contest, open now and running through 2/22/23, is a great learning opportunity for your students. And with global population set to top 8 billion this November, now is the perfect time to introduce population into your teaching content.

Here are just a few of the many cool things about the *World of 8 Billion* student video competition:

- **It's easy to assign as an individual or small-group project**
We provide a [step-by-step lesson plan](#) for you, and an [electronic project organizer](#) for your students, to ensure success.
- **Opportunity for student choice**
Students choose one of the [three overall global topics](#) and focus on any subtopic that interests them.
- **Prizes for your and your students**
Top student videos will receive up to \$1,200 in prize money. Participating teachers will receive a complementary set of Population Education resources.

By taking part in the World of 8 Billion student video contest, your students can share their ideas on how to tackle global problems related to population.

Think critically about these global challenges and share what they think we should do to fix them.



Focus on: Social Emotional Learning From the PopEd Blog

We've heard the news: students, teachers, and families are burning out. Enter: Social Emotional Learning, or SEL. SEL helps students of all ages

grow more self-aware and socially conscious, build positive relationships, and succeed both in and out of the classroom. It's important for fostering future global citizens who will work together for our world. This September and October, PopEd is dedicated to helping you learn more about why and how to teach SEL! Stay tuned for SEL resources & articles.

[Read more and follow along.](#)

Lesson Spotlight: American HerStory

Students examine their own perceptions of gender roles through two short mental exercises, then research and present on the role of women in the home and workplace throughout U.S. history. The [printable lesson plan](#) is free to download.



Teaching Tough Topics: Helpful Tips for Covering Sensitive Issues in the Social Studies Classroom

BY ANDREA MORAN | May 15, 2020

As educators, sensitive topics are bound to come up in the classroom, whether you meet in-person or online. This can be especially true in the social studies, which is ultimately the study of human relationships and the functioning of society. Students' identities, lived experiences, and what they see and hear in the media can all shape their perspectives on the many societal topics covered in class, including race, class, religion, immigration, gender identity, sexual orientation, wealth, globalization, or political viewpoints.

Some teachers may be tempted to avoid teaching about certain issues or topics. But with the right preparation, you can, and certainly should, create a safe space for students to respectfully communicate and have dialogue on sensitive, yet critical, topics. Listening to and learning about different viewpoints also provides an authentic opportunity to further students' critical thinking skills.

We've put together some [resources and tips](#) for creating and supporting productive and respectful discussions on *tough topics* in the social studies classroom in the blog.

Population Education provides K-12 teachers with innovative, hands-on lesson plans and professional development to teach about human population growth and its effects on the environment and human well-being.



and grow in their learning at home, on their own. One teacher at a university in my community calls her assignments *fun at home*, and it can be! This rethinking of what homework is has potential not only to change students' perspectives on what they're asked to do but also to encourage teachers to make sure that what they assign really does present an opportunity for learning, whether through practice and reinforcement of learning begun in class or through expansion into new areas



Background Information for all Teachers

TOPSS and the APA Education Directorate are pleased to announce [a new 7-lesson unit plan on Positive Psychology](#), developed by Leah Greene, Fernando Romero, and Cori Schwarzrock. The seven lessons cover: The Psychology of Happiness, Positive Psychology Interventions: Character Strengths, Gratitude, Mindfulness and Psychology, Growth Mindset, Grit and Resilience, and Reprogramming Habits. Each lesson includes a general overview, definitions of key terms, and a content outline; the lesson plan also provides a guide on integrating lessons into course content, eighteen classroom activities, references, and a resource list. Teachers can use the entire lesson plan or any parts they might want to take in use in class, either at any point during the year or in the spring after AP or IB exams, if taught. TOPSS thanks the APF David and Carol Myers Fund to Support Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools for its support of this project.

You can access the lesson plan at <https://on.apa.org/3p15U6z>. All TOPSS lesson plans are [available online here](#).



America Needs a Better Plan to Fight Autocracy

by Anne Applebaum in [The Atlantic](#) (3/15/2022)

(Edited for length)

All of us have in our mind a cartoon image of what an autocratic state looks like. There is a bad man at the top. He controls the police. The police threaten the people with violence. There are evil collaborators, and maybe some brave dissidents.

But in the 21st century, that cartoon bears little resemblance to reality. Nowadays, autocracies are run not by one bad guy, but by networks composed of kleptocratic financial structures, security services (military, police, paramilitary groups, surveillance personnel), and professional propagandists. The members of these networks are connected not only within a given country, but among many countries. The corrupt, state-controlled companies in one dictatorship do business with their counterparts in another, with the profits going to the leader and his



inner circle. Oligarchs from multiple countries all use the same accountants and lawyers to hide their money in Europe and America. The police forces in one country can arm, equip, and train the police forces in another; China notoriously sells surveillance technology all around the world. Propagandists share resources and tactics—the Russian troll farms that promote Putin's propaganda can also be used to promote the propaganda of Belarus or Venezuela.

They also pound home the same messages about the weakness of democracy and the evil of America. Chinese sources are right now echoing fake Russian stories about nonexistent Ukrainian chemical weapons. Their goal is to launch false narratives and confuse audiences in the United States and other free societies. They do so in order to make us believe that there is nothing we can do in response. . . .

The full article at <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/03/russia-ukraine-senate-testimony-autocracy-kleptocrats/627061/>

For an interesting read, take a look at-

Good schools for a troubled democracy

by Jon Vala in the Phi Delta Kappan March 2020



National Hispanic Heritage Month Resources

from Oakland Schools



Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson offers Election Info

MI Vote Counts is a non-partisan, weekly web-series hosted by the Michigan Department of State. Sessions feature helpful voter how-tos, a deep-dive into how Michigan elections are run, and tips for preparing your community for November The website includes many videos on the work of the Scdretry of Stat Office:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MichSoSOffice>

Let, but not least, a list of resources for this election from Jim McConnell.

Key 2022 Election Resources on the web

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson=Elections

<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections>

Bridge (The Center for Michigan)

<https://www.bridgemi.com/center-michigan>

Check out their 2022 Election Resource Guide

League of women Voters of Michigan

<https://lwvmi.org/>

Voters Not Politicians

<https://votersnotpoliticians.com/>

Citizens Research Council if Michigan

<https://crcmich.org/>

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

<https://www.aclumich.org/>



SOS Information Videos:

=====**Tomorrow's Leaders Learn Today**