

Title of Session: Social Studies Forum - Civil War Preservation Trust

Moderator: Michael Hutchison

Guest Speaker: Jen Rosenberry

Title of File: 20030925cwpt

Date: September 25, 2003

Room: After School Online Room

MichaelH: Welcome to tonight's SPECIAL social studies forum...

MichaelH: tonight we're going to talk about Civil War resources...

MichaelH: something we've never done in the forum before :)

MichaelH: tonight we have a special guest with us...

MichaelH: who I will let introduce herself...

MichaelH: Jen, let's do it :)

JenniferRo: Thanks Michael!.....

JenniferRo: Hi everyone, I am Jennifer Rosenberry.....

JenniferRo: and I work with the Civil War Preservation Trust.....

JenniferRo: we are a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve Civil War battlefields.

JenniferRo: Part of that mission is EDUCATION, which is where I come in! :)

JenniferRo: Michael was very nice to introduce me to Tapped In and to all of the nice folks here!

MichaelH: GREAT!!!!

MichaelH: Glad you could join us tonight, Jen...

JenniferRo: thanks!

MichaelH: would everyone else like to id themselves and say HI?

SusanR: It is a pleasure meeting you.

JenniferRo: and you.!

JenniferRo: I see BJ is here...and Candace is still here...

MichaelH: is a technology curriculum facilitator in a small school district in southwestern Indiana...

MichaelH: and Jen's assistant tonight...

MichaelH: looks around for anyone else who'd like to say hi...

SusanR: I am a K to 8 Occasional Teacher in Ottawa, Ontario Canada

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

JenniferRo: hi Susan and BJ

MichaelH: Jen, maybe the best way for you to begin...

MichaelH: let's say I'm an American History teacher...

MichaelH: I come across your site...

MichaelH: and I e-mail you for ideas or materials...

MichaelH: how would you help me?

JenniferRo: well, the first thing I would do is send you to www.civilwar.org.

JenniferRo: that's our home page, and if you go to the education section, you will see plenty of classroom helpers!

JenniferRo: if your home computer is like mine,

JenniferRo: my connection is slow as molasses.

JenniferRo: so, I'll talk about them and you can view later, if you like!

MichaelH: it's ok, Jen... we've got time :)

JenniferRo smiles

JenniferRo: I'm particularly proud of our Civil War teacher institute, which will be late July this year. We are teaming up with Virginia Tech so we can provide CEUs for teachers who attend.

JenniferRo: Last year was free; we're hoping to do the same this year.

JenniferRo: does everyone see the education section on the web page? My computer is still loading, believe it or not.

MichaelH is looking at the institute page... looks like a lot of fun...

MichaelH: Jen, how about I put the direct link for the page?

JenniferRo: great!

JenniferRo looks grateful

MichaelH: it's at <http://www.civilwar.org/historyctandclassrm.htm>

MichaelH: you all will note the pull down menu for the different aspects of the site

MichaelH: the institute Jen's talking about... is at

http://www.civilwar.org/historyclassroom/hc_anntechinst.htm

JenniferRo: we learned period dances from the Victorian Dance Ensemble,

MichaelH . o O (that's the right page, right Jen?)

JenniferRo: still loading...will tell you in a minute!

MichaelH: hey, Jen, while you are loading... let's say I want to go to next year's institute... how do I sign up?

JenniferRo: Just e-mail me!

JenniferRo: that's all there is to it....

JenniferRo: I will send an application form and you just fill in the blanks.

MichaelH: You mentioned Va. Tech gives CEUs, any graduate credit available?

JenniferRo: basically, all I want to know is that you are an active teacher, that you plan to use this information in your classroom....

JenniferRo: right now, all we can do is the Continuing Education Units. We're working on graduate credit for a future year

JenniferRo: Virginia Tech does give each teacher a certificate

JenniferRo: stating how many hours they spent in instruction

MichaelH: How many teachers usually participate, Jen?

JenniferRo: the first year we had thirty.....

JenniferRo: last year we had almost one hundred.

JenniferRo: we're aiming for 100+ this year

MichaelH: WOW! That's great!

JenniferRo: we were very happy with the turnout.....

JenniferRo: this year will be, I just found out, at the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Va.....

JenniferRo: and we will be visiting Appomattox Courthouse NHP, and the park staff will show teachers what they can do in their classrooms for field trips.

JenniferRo: Virginia tech will be working with us again for the CEUs.

JenniferRo: And....

JenniferRo: Bud Robertson and Jack Davis, two noted Civil War historians, will be there....

JenniferRo: they will be interacting with teachers during the event.

MichaelH: it sounds like a lot of fun...

JenniferRo: That kind of one-on-one access to historians is well worth the time....

MichaelH: what's the deadline for applications?

JenniferRo: it's great!

JenniferRo: sometime I can e-mail anyone pictures from the event....

JenniferRo: if you want to show examples to administrators....

JenniferRo: to get them to pay for travel expenses, etc.

JenniferRo: for example.....

JenniferRo: to demonstrate Civil War camp discipline.....

JenniferRo: we bucked and gagged a (willing) volunteer.....

JenniferRo: no kidding!

MichaelH: will pass on that honor :)

JenniferRo: awww...but it was fun!

JenniferRo: another great thing that happens at the institute.....you have access

JenniferRo: to the staff of Pamplin Historic Park.....you can visit www.pamplinpark.org sometime.....

JenniferRo: they show you all kinds of hands-on things you can do with kids of all ages.

JenniferRo: and they bring the civil war to kids' levels....talking about YOUNG soldiers (so they can make the connection)....

MichaelH: Jen, that was the next question I was going to ask... is this institute for teachers on all grade levels?

JenniferRo: yes, we get a mixture of teachers....

JenniferRo: from elementary school (3rd grade was the youngest group)....

MichaelH: sounds cool... ok, I'm ready for next July... I'm packed :)

MichaelH: now what about this year...

JenniferRo: to middle school and high school.....

JenniferRo: college professors too.

MichaelH: what can CWPT provide for me with this year's students?

JenniferRo: we have a GREAT civil war curriculum.

JenniferRo: there is a link to it on the web page....

JenniferRo: if you have adobe acrobat you can download it.

JenniferRo: you can e-mail the office and ask for a free CD, too.

MichaelH: so I can download lessons?

SusanR: notices the outstanding resources for grade 5

JenniferRo: yes, Michael! that's the great thing!

JenniferRo: thanks Susan!

JenniferRo: blushes

JenniferRo: we put a lot of work into the curriculum.....

JenniferRo: it is broken down into grades 5/8/11, but adaptable to just about any level I think....

JenniferRo: and there is a traveling trunk program, too.

MichaelH: Jen is that the "lesson plans and activities" page?

JenniferRo: yes.....

MichaelH: Jen, I have to do this... :)

MichaelH: tell them about the weevils....

JenniferRo: eeeeeeeeeeeew!

JenniferRo: well, there is a (contained) herd in the traveling trunk.....

JenniferRo: everytime we rent the trunk....

JenniferRo: teachers talk about how indestructible hardtack was.....

JenniferRo: which, of course, is an invitation for kids to TRASH the hardtack.

JenniferRo: I contacted Mercury Supply Company (which has a web site you can look up)..... and he was nice enough to give us some hardtack....

JenniferRo: which had been lying around his warehouse for a while....

JenniferRo: that's the good news!....

JenniferRo: the bad news is that when I got the hardtack, the first thing I noticed was the MICROHOLES all through it.....

JenniferRo: the stuff was riddled.....

JenniferRo: then I looked closer.....

JenniferRo: there was a HERD of WEEVILS in the hardtack.

JenniferRo: NO KIDDING!

JenniferRo: I immediately freaked out and stuffed the stuff back in the box.

JenniferRo: then I realized that this is a GREAT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY.

JenniferRo is serious.

JenniferRo: has anyone read Hardtack and Coffee? if so, you'll know why.

JenniferRo looks around the room

MichaelH knows the story

JenniferRo: Susan, have you read Hardtack and Coffee?

JenniferRo: BJ and Candace?

JenniferRo talked so long they are probably out getting coffee!

MichaelH: what's the connection with coffee, Jen

SusanR: Sorry I haven't

JenniferRo: anyway, in Hardtack and Coffee, Billings mentions that the Hardtack was usually....

JenniferRo: infested with Weevils.

JenniferRo: the best way to get rid of them.....

JenniferRo: was to dunk the hardtack in the coffee.....

JenniferRo: and Billings notes that the weevils "are easily skimmed off, leaving no distinguishable taste afterwards....."

JenniferRo: KIDS LOVE GROSS STUFF.

JenniferRo: The curriculum, back to the curriculum,....

JenniferRo: has a medical section full of GROSS STUFF....

MichaelH thought that was a good hook for the curriculum... :)

JenniferRo: like bugs, medical treatment of the time, hygiene....etc.....

JenniferRo: thanks!

SusanR: That would be a GREAT hook for Grade 5 students

JenniferRo: seriously!.....

SusanR: leeches

MichaelH: it was for my ninth graders last year, Jen

JenniferRo: I bet!

MichaelH: had a group do a presentation on Civil War Medicine

JenniferRo: How could it NOT catch your attention!

JenniferRo: that's right.....

JenniferRo: do you want to share your student's projects, Michael....?
MichaelH: well, some of these folks know about them, Jen...
MichaelH: if we have time at the end of the session, I'll show them off...
MichaelH: you've got some other things you want to highlight first
JenniferRo: okay....
JenniferRo: we'll get back to that....
JenniferRo: I am full of information and will help in any way I can if anyone needs project ideas, etc.....
JenniferRo: we are always updating the curriculum....
JenniferRo: in fact, a new lesson plan on Atlanta and the March to the Sea will be coming on line soon....
MichaelH: Jen, don't you also have an e-mail newsletter?
JenniferRo: hopefully next week....
JenniferRo: yes, for anyone who sends me their e-mail address, I send a weekly e-mail newsletter....
JenniferRo: it goes out to 1,300+ teachers.....
MichaelH: and we should start posting that on the Social Studies Forum e-mail list, too :)
JenniferRo nods
JenniferRo: every week I keep teachers posted on the latest education program offerings....
JenniferRo: and give some great, fun web sites too.....
MichaelH: for you folks who subscribe to the SSF list, I posted Jen's last newsletter
JenniferRo is grateful!
MichaelH: but you might like to subscribe, too
JenniferRo: Let's see.....we've done the curriculum, newsletter, traveling trunk, institute.....
MichaelH is glad to help...
MichaelH: contest?
JenniferRo: THAT'S RIGHT!
JenniferRo: We have an annual poster & essay contest for kids in grades 4-12....
JenniferRo: unlike some of the contests I've seen lately, there is no fee to enter....
JenniferRo: I have the guidelines on the web....
JenniferRo: let me find the link for you....
JenniferRo: the cool thing about the contest is that this year....
MichaelH is looking, too :)
JenniferRo: there are prizes for both the winning student AND his/her teacher....
JenniferRo: they were graciously given by the History Channel...
MichaelH: Jen, try http://www.civilwar.org/historyclassroom/hc_studcontest.htm
JenniferRo: you're fast!.....
MichaelH: well, just being your assistant :)
JenniferRo smiles
MichaelH: suggestion, Jen...
JenniferRo: yes...
MichaelH: for the photos...
JenniferRo: yes...
MichaelH: you might want to provide for digital photography

MichaelH: which would be e-mail attachments or CDs

JenniferRo: I'll let Julie know about that.....

JenniferRo: it's a good idea.....

MichaelH: would make it easier to post the winners, too,.. they'd already be computer files...

JenniferRo: for some reason, I get the poster & essay contest and she gets the photo contest!

JenniferRo: that's true...

JenniferRo: the poster/essay contest's focus is on PRESERVATION

JenniferRo: we want kids to get good values as well as Civil War history out of this....

JenniferRo: we want them to care about the environment and historical resources...;

MichaelH: that's a good idea :)

JenniferRo: we want them to get involved in a cause, and be good, educated VOTERS down the road....

JenniferRo: because today's kids are tomorrow's voters....

JenniferRo: they will be voting out (or voting in) the local officials...

JenniferRo: who will be responsible for preserving (or destroying) historic sites.....

MichaelH: not to mention historical monuments for Civil War veterans

JenniferRo: so the focus of the contest is "Honor the Past...Preserve for the Future"....

JenniferRo: yes... that's right!

JenniferRo: the prizes are cool....

MichaelH: that might be something to consider for those folks not close by to a battlefield...

MichaelH: yeah, tell us about those, Jen...

JenniferRo: for kids, \$200, \$100, \$50 check for 1st/2nd/3rd...

JenniferRo: for teachers....

JenniferRo: \$200/\$100/\$50 gift certificates to the History Channel...

JenniferRo: which would be great to get classroom resources.....

JenniferRo: and it's an incentive for teachers to get involved too!

JenniferRo smiles

MichaelH: History Channel stuff is always good

JenniferRo: isn't it!....

JenniferRo: and, I have kind of a fun thing on the web too....for a time filler or game on a rainy day....

MichaelH: tell us about that, Jen

JenniferRo: we have coloring pages for the young kids....

SusanR listens intently...an engaging resource

JenniferRo: Michael, can you find the link to the coloring book pages for me? my computer is thinking...thinking....thinking....

JenniferRo: the coloring pages are good for younger kids...

MichaelH: just a sec

JenniferRo: there's a general on horseback,....a typical soldier....

JenniferRo: thanks!...

JenniferRo: the 54th Mass. charging Fort Wagner.....

MichaelH: is it this one?

MichaelH: http://www.civilwar.org/historyclassroom/hc_gamescontest.htm

JenniferRo: THANKS1

JenniferRo: Susan, are you into coloring books? because if you e-mail me sometime....

JenniferRo: I'll give you the information for a GREAT coloring book I found....it's awesome.....

JenniferRo: for older kids, there is battlefield bingo (good for a field trip) and there are crossword puzzles.....

JenniferRo: kids read the history articles on our page, and use that information to fill out the crossword puzzle.

SusanR: I will, Jennifer. Thank you!!!

SusanR: I am looking at the PDF Coloring pages right now.

JenniferRo: I hope you can use them!

JenniferRo: what grades do you teach again, Susan?

SusanR: K to 8 on an occasional basis..retired..subtitute teach..can't seem to leave the profession.

JenniferRo smiles

SusanR: today the Computer lab

JenniferRo: ah.....

JenniferRo: if you get bored in there....

JenniferRo: as everyone laughs!...

JenniferRo: you can play the Whack a Tower game!

JenniferRo: kind of like Whack A Mole, except with the Gettysburg Tower.....

SusanR: Thank you, Jen. I will use it as a motivator.

JenniferRo: cool!

JenniferRo: get those frustrations out!

MichaelH: Hey Jen, we're about out of time...

MichaelH: any closing thoughts, suggestions, ideas, you'd like to share?

JenniferRo: if anyone has a question, concern, or has any ideas they would like to share....or if they want to join the mailing list, or chat! they can e-mail me at

rosenberry@civilwar.org

SusanR: I will have to look at our social studies curriculum and see where the civil war fits in. We may be having the same problems with preserving our battlefields in Canada.

MichaelH: Well, Jen, we'd certainly like to have you back as a guest again.. and keep us up to date on the contest and institute too.

JenniferRo: that's interesting....

JenniferRo: I will definitely keep you all posted!

MichaelH: anyone have any questions for Jen?

MichaelH: before I talk about our next session?

MichaelH: next session IS...

MichaelH: a special one...

MichaelH: which we had to postpone because of Hurricane Isabel...

MichaelH: We'll be discussing the upcoming Ken Burns film, "Horatio's Drive"

MichaelH: including teaching resources and lesson plans

MichaelH: joining me will be...

MichaelH: Anne Harrington of WETA, the Washington PBS affiliate station,

MichaelH: and the lesson developers...

MichaelH: Steve Crandall

MichaelH: Michele Israel

MichaelH: and me....

MichaelH: time is 8 p.m. Eastern/5 p.m. Pacific next TUESDAY (9/30/03)

MichaelH waves goodnight to all..

JenniferRo bye

JenniferRo: don't forget to drop me a line for any questions or more information....and it was great to meet you, Susan!

SusanR: Thanks you for an illuminating discussion, Jennifer.

JenniferRo: you're welcome!

SusanR: Thanks again.

JenniferRo: take care, and drop me a line....and I'll send you that coloring book information...it's really good...and informative too, for a coloring book.

SusanR: I will. Thank you again.

JenniferRo: you're welcome! bye!