

National History Day 2015: Leadership & Legacy in History

Using American Historical Newspaper Content

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers Prize

The National Endowment for the Humanities

Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), this prize is awarded in both the Junior and Senior divisions **to an outstanding entry in any category that utilizes the newspaper resources that are available on the Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers web site (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>)**. Each content item from Chronicling America (article, image, etc.) used for the entry must be noted in the Primary Sources section of the Annotated Bibliography and follow proper NHD citation guidelines for Web content. **The Chronicling America web site provides free access to over 5 million pages of select digitized historic newspapers published between 1836 and 1922.** It is produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a long-term partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress to digitize representative historic newspapers from all 50 states and U.S. territories. Chronicling America currently has digitized newspapers from 28 states and the District of Columbia, with new content added regularly, including newspapers published in foreign languages starting with Spanish and French. Primary sources are not limited to newspaper articles, but also include advertisements, images, literary prose, and other content that appears in historic newspapers. In addition to providing basic factual details about an event or topic, historic newspapers can shed light on local perspectives about a major historical event, insight into social or cultural practices, traditions, political opinions, economic circumstances, and a wealth of other historical information. For more information on NEH visit their homepage at <http://www.neh.gov/>. For more information on Chronicling America visit the mini site at <http://edsitement.neh.gov/what-chronicling-america>.

New Award Category for projects that incorporate newspaper resources available at Chronicling America:

Visit the National Endowment for the Humanities EDSITEMENT! website for a complete lesson plan on how to use historic digital newspapers for National History Day at:

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/using-historic-digital-newspapers-national-history-day#sect-thelesson>

The screenshot shows the EDSITEMENT! website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'NEH Connections', 'Calendar', 'Reference Shelf', 'Websites', 'After School', and 'About EDSITEMENT!'. Below this are three main categories: 'FEATURES', 'LESSON PLANS', and 'STUDENT RESOURCES'. A search bar is located on the right side, with a 'GO' button. The main content area features a lesson plan titled 'Using Historic Digital Newspapers for National History Day', created on August 15, 2013. The lesson plan is organized into sections: 'THE LESSON', 'THE BASICS', and 'RESOURCES'. The 'Introduction' section is currently selected, displaying a logo for 'NHD NATIONAL HISTORY DAY' and text explaining that historic digitalized newspapers are treasure troves of information, historical context, and primary source material. It mentions that Chronicling America contains over 6 million pages of local and state newspapers from 1836-1922. A sidebar on the right contains 'TOOLS' for Email, Print, and a Google+ button. A left sidebar lists various lesson plan components like 'Introduction', 'Guiding Questions', 'Learning Objectives', etc.

Visit the **Vermont Digital Newspaper Project's** website for more information: library.uvm.edu/vtnp/wordpress
8 million American newspaper pages searchable online for free at chroniclingamerica.loc.gov.

The Career of Senator Morrill.

The Springfield Republican's Biographical Tribute.

Senator Morrill died at his home in Washington at 115 last Wednesday morning after a short illness from pneumonia. The grip attacked him a few days previous and this rapidly developed into pneumonia.

Justin S. Morrill, senior senator of Vermont in the United States Senate, has died at Washington, within less than four months of his 89th anniversary, thus closing a remarkable career in American legislation. It had lasted for 43 years, exceeding by three years that of any other member of the United States Congress, in the course of its history. He had been in the Senate for 31 years, and was serving his sixth term, which would have expired in 1903. It is to the high credit of Vermont that in 1896, when Mr. Morrill was 87 years old, he



was nevertheless chosen again to represent that state in the upper house of Congress. It was apparent at Montpelier that the state could not be represented by any other with so great honor, and Vermont like Massachusetts, has always been proud of its standing in the Senate. It was well thus to continue the service of a faithful and wise servant of the people, even when his election involved the probability that he would not live out his term. To preserve in the people's service so long as may be such a man as Justin Morrill is a matter of general gratitude to the state of Vermont. For a long time he has been called the "Nestor," the "dean" or the "father" of the Senate, and his venerable figure will be greatly missed in the capital. With the single exception of Galusha Grow, representative from Pennsylvania, he was the only man in Congress whose congressional career began prior to the beginning of the civil war, and he had the honor over Mr. Grow in that his congressional service had been continuous.

Justin Morrill was born April 14, 1810, in the rural town of Strafford, where his Vermont home has always been. A farming community among the hills, around a little village in the valley, which the railroad even to this day has not penetrated, was the scene of his origin. The old-fashioned academy of the village gave him his education, at least all he ever derived from schools. He became the village merchant, serving out calicos, nails and plug tobacco to the countryside, and doubtless finding among his customers, as young Lincoln did behind the counter on the Sangamon, the dramatic personae for many an argumentative discussion of national moralities, economics and politics. He was naturally of a scholarly turn, and at 40 years of age was the master of a clear, terse and forcible English style, an easy and effective debating habit, and an excellent understanding of national questions. He retired from mercantile life to the farm and to political life. If there were any steps of gradation through the legislature or otherwise, by which he rose, he has not thought it worth while to mention them, but as a member of the new republican party he so impressed the farmers of this district with his fitness to represent them at Washington that he was elected to the 34th Congress, whose first term began in December, 1855. He was re-elected successively, and was serving in the 39th Congress when (in 1866) he was elected to the Senate to serve out the unexpired term of Senator Foot. He was re-elected in 1872, in 1878, in 1884, in 1890 and in 1896, and his present term would expire March 3, 1903. He had, therefore, served continuously in Congress nearly 44 years.

Visit **Vermont Digital Newspaper Project's** website for more ideas and Vermont-specific lesson plans and content: library.uvm.edu/vtnp/wordpress



Vermont-specific Content Example: Justin Smith Morrill: A Vermont Senator's Political Legacy

"The Career of Senator Morrill."

St. Johnsbury Caledonian., January 04, 1899, Page 3

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lcn/sn84023253/1899-01-04/ed-1/seq-3/>

On the Morrill Act of 1862

Vermont phœnix., February 17, 1899, Image 1

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lcn/sn98060050/1899-02-17/ed-1/seq-1/>

The executive committee of the association of American agricultural colleges have appointed April 14, the anniversary of Senator Morrill's birth, as a day to be observed with appropriate exercises by all the agricultural and mechanical colleges of the country organized and established under the so-called Morrill act of 1862. Mr. Morrill's first bill to grant public lands for agricultural, scientific and industrial colleges was vetoed by President Buchanan. It was introduced again by Mr. Morrill and it became a law through his management. Under this act 47 colleges were established, and they now have over 500 professors and over 5000 students.

On the Morrill Tariff of 1861

Burlington weekly free press., December 29, 1898, Page 2

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lcn/sn86072143/1898-12-29/ed-1/seq-2/>

The necessity of revenues to meet the exigencies of a conflict of arms brought Mr. Morrill to the front as the projector of the Morrill tariff of 1861, which was one of the first of the war measures in defence of the Union. If Senator Morrill had no other title to fame, it would be more than many men can boast to have been the author of the Morrill tariff. Under the operations of that measure, with its adaptation to the needs of a growing country, the annual production of wealth of over 60,000,000 of people in the United States had reached to nearly \$1,000,000,000 against the \$25,000,000 produced annually by all of the accumulated wealth in the experience of centuries and all the industry of the people in Great Britain. And after a quarter of a century, when the democrats came into power in the House, Mr. Morrill arose in the Senate to resist the overthrow of the protective system by the same party which left the government bankrupt when he and others took charge of it in 1861. In the speech on that memorable occasion, when he arose to resist the democratic attack upon the tariff system, which he devised in 1861, Mr. Morrill declared that he found that party incapable of progress or of learning, and still mouthing over the ancient theories as "obsolete as cocked hats and velvet breeches," which brought the country to ruin so long ago.

Mr. Morrill remained continuously in