



South Georgia
History Project

The Wiregrass Telegraph

Promoting Educational Excellence in U. S. History!

Treeless
Edition

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Comments on Curriculum

By Andy Preston, Ware Magnet School

NOTE: Andy was a teacher volunteer that put in a great deal of personal time on the curriculum project. We all owe him thanks for his efforts to make things better.

Al Jacobs has asked me to write this in reference to the QCC revision process. I served on the US History subcommittee. By now Al has given or sent you a copy of the proposed changes. I want you to know that this is definitely a draft document and probably will change. Here are some of my feelings on this new curriculum.

The strength of the curriculum is that we will finally get into modern US history. The first unit will be "founding fathers" and the next unit will be "The US in 1877" which will include a general review. The other units will progress chronologically to recent history. Fourteen units will give teachers a chance to go into subjects in-depth rather than be forced to cover everything. Each unit will feature content knowledge, linking past and present, and historical research objectives.

I do have a few concerns. First, we were told early in our deliberations that the Civil War would be a major focus of the 8th grade curriculum and to move it out of the high school course. I personally feel that the teacher team developing the Georgia history curriculum did not do this. The Civil War will probably be added to our work. Second, we had to leave out some personal favorites -

presidencies of Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson.

My understanding of this process is that it now goes to the State Board of Education for accepting the work and allowing public comment. If that happens, public comment will last for 3 months. It is imperative that you check the new curriculum and **MAKE YOUR COMMENTS** to the appropriate officials. The time frame of two months to complete this project may have led to some errors. We need teachers to check things carefully. Although I'm not sure of my role at this time, I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Andy's Email is apreston@waxycable.com

GADOE Timeline (from the GLC website)

We're working on an aggressive timeframe. The first meeting of the Curriculum Expert Advisory Boards was held July 2, and there have been several more since. Phase II of the work on the QCC will be complete by late fall, with a draft of the revised curriculum presented for review by the State Board in November, 2003. Pending SBOE approval in December, the revamped curriculum will be placed on the website and go out for public comment with broad community input & review from January to March of 2004.



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Revisions based on these comments will be incorporated during April and May, and the final document will be up for Board approval in May of 2004, with printing and distribution in July.

Throughout this process, Superintendent Kathy Cox will join Dr. Love and others in a series of meetings across the state to discuss the revised QCCs with teachers, administrators, and parents. The summer 2004 rollout will consist of professional development, mapping of textbooks, and the development of parent guides. The new curriculum will be implemented in fall of 2004, and will be used as a basis for the RFP for the 2005-06 CRCT contract.

You can see the entire text at:

<http://www.doe.k12.ga.us/curriculum/instruction/qcc/index.asp>

For a general look at the new social studies curriculum, go to:

<http://www.glc.k12.ga.us/pandp/sstudies/introduction.htm>

Addition to Course Offering

Under consideration is a proposal from our professors to offer a second course on the Gilded Age. The current course essentially covers the early Gilded Age through the administration of TR. The proposed course would pick up after TR and continue up to the time of FDR and the New Deal. We envision this course as being

available in the spring of 2005 which will allow us to properly sequence everyone that has taken the Early Gilded Age in the fall semester. The idea here is to offer a different graduate level history course that will assist you with the new QCC content every year. Your comments and suggestions are invited.

Your Personal Library

We're developing a booklist as the start of a personal library for each teacher that will include the required reading for our current course on the early Gilded Age and for the projected late Gilded Age class - the current class has already received some of those books. Our professors envision about 30 books in the library and are being very diligent in their search to bring you the best sources for the tasks enumerated in the new QCCs. The booklist should be complete within the next month - we'll get the list out to you by Email for comments. Once everyone is happy with what they see, we'll start the purchase process with the goal of assembling a set for each teacher and issuing sets by the end of the school year. We believe that your new library will form the basis for your teaching modern US history and provide you with source material not normally found in textbooks. If anyone has requests or suggestions for inclusion in the library, let us know - title, author and ISBN would be helpful.



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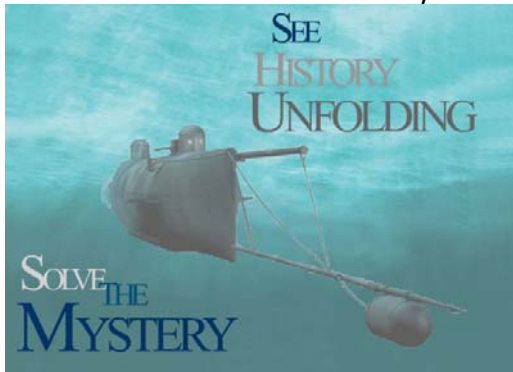
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Summer Employment

The new QCCs will require new lesson plans, resource lists, etc. We want to build a library of lessons to go on to the SGHP website, eventually covering the entire US history curriculum. For instance, all the lesson plans done by you when attending Dr Johnson's class will be posted on the site. However, for right now we're especially interested in lesson plans covering the first few units of the new QCC to help everyone get started next year. SO - we're offering stipends to you to create lessons that we can post on the SGHP website. If you're interested, send us your proposal and we'll get together on the details.

Coming Soon - A Unique Event

"We will soon witness one of the great historical events of our lifetime." That's how one South Carolina State official described the forthcoming burial of the eight-member crew of the Hunley, the first successful combat submarine in world history.



The burial with full military honors for the members of the crew, who perished at sea

nearly 140 years ago, has now been set for April 17, 2004 at Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston, South Carolina.

Nearly 140 years ago, on February 17th, 1864, a volunteer crew of eight men entered the experimental vessel with the mission of sinking the USS Housatonic. After ramming a spar torpedo into the hull of Housatonic, exploding it and sinking the vessel in a matter of minutes, the Hunley began her journey home.

Lt. Dixon, the Hunley's commander, opened the forward hatch and displayed a blue light to their compatriots on shore, the signal of a successful mission. Soon after, for reasons that are still unknown, the submarine and all hands onboard disappeared without a trace. The fate and location of the Hunley and her crew remained a mystery for over 130 years.

In 1995, Clive Cussler and his organization, NUMA, located the Hunley, and on August 8, 2000 she was raised from the ocean floor. The Hunley was essentially a time capsule, holding the remains and personal belongings of the crewmen, as well as many valuable artifacts.

Here's a great lesson unit for 2d semester! Go to <http://www.hunley.org> for lesson plans and a full resource kit on CSS Hunley. Let the kids follow the burial ceremony as it happens! Solve the mystery of LT Dixon's gold coin!