Experience with Archival Assignments

- Schools
  - Private
  - Public
- Students
  - Assignment Worries
  - Access to Archives
- Archivists
Historical Society of Pennsylvania

- Volunteerism
- Student’s comfort with
  - Archivists
  - Historians
  - Librarians
  - Teachers
- The creation of secondary level assignments for students
Camden Catholic High School

- Logistics
- Assignment Expectations
- Duration of the assignment
Christmas in Philadelphia 1865 -1925

- Classes divided by Department Stores
  - Gimbels
  - Wanamaker’s (photo included)
- Social History Assignment based on
  - Christmas Ephemera
  - Newspapers & Advertisements
  - Magazines
  - Scholarly works (journals / books)
The Growth of Archival Assignments

- Feedback from Christmas in Philadelphia
- Awarded James Madison Fellowship
- New Archival Assignments
  - *The Concord Review*
  - The American Civil War
  - Philadelphia; The Political and Cultural Capital of the United States 1787-1800
Private School Archival Issues

• Structure - assignments, time management, accessibility
• School - large diverse community, Administration change
• Value - Students of Honors/AP Courses reported being better prepared for college (research, sources, microfilm)
• Technology - Limits of digital library, access, and changes
Haddonfield Memorial High School

- Public School
- Small Community
- Historic Town
- Military Tradition
World War II Letters

- The development of the project
- The letters, the man, and the school
- Accessibility and logistics
- Administration changes and security
- Community support and student panels

Principal William “Bull” Reynolds
Student Feedback

- Tactile experience
- Connection with 1941-45, Yearbooks
- Image of the town & community
- Information outside the classroom
- Easy relationship with Archivist
Criticism

- Not knowing where to start
- Limits to research capabilities
- Common Problems
  - Cursive writing
  - Dead ends
  - Writing blocks
- Scheduling trips to the Historical Society of Haddonfield, during of after school
Haddonfield and the Great War

- Research based class on the memorial plaque
- A semester elective w/ Historical Society
- Students led a panel on WWI findings
- Engaged history and non history students
The benefits of our collaborative works

- Always evolving assignments
- The interests of students and residents
- New topics and anniversaries
- Collaborative grants and projects
- Curriculum emphasis from a local perspective
Thank You

My ideas came from …

Historical Societies (Big and Small)

The History Teacher

Sam Wineburg’s works

Librarians, Colleagues, Archivists

And STUDENTS (CCHS & HMHS)

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