Public History – Local History Lesson Plan

Public History is history as practices outside the academic world. It is sometimes called applied history, and includes genealogy, battlefield and memorial presentations, museums, television and film documentaries, historical societies, corporate history.

Public History is different from "Regular History" in the following ways:

1. It's created for a broad audience, not for other historians.
2. It is generally produced collaboratively, not individually.
3. Increasingly it makes use of digital technologies to reach the public.
4. It does not require advanced degrees in history.

For today's project, you're going to first generate information about your locality and then use that information to generate a story board explaining how your locality has changed in the last 100 years.

Resources: MNHS Collections http://www.mnhs.org/collections/index.htm
US Census: http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Search for County or Town Historical Societies. See http://www.mnhs.org/localhistory/mho/chsclo.html.

1. When was your town or village founded? Where did you find this information (citation)

2. What is the earliest population data you can find for you town? Can you find it's population in 1910 or 1920? What your town's current population?

3. What did you find most interesting about the article you found in *Minnesota History* about your town?

4. What pictures are available for your town or county in the period 1910-20? Select two and post the URLs here.

5. Based on your studies this semester, what is the biggest difference between the histories of Minneapolis/St. Paul and the town you chose for this assignment?

6. Write a blog entry on our course blog (blogger.com Login: normandalehistory@gmail.com, password: clio1968) that includes one piece of statistical data, one picture, and one piece of information from your article. The purpose of your blog post is to motivate a fellow classmate to visit your town over the holiday break. Please include your name somewhere in your blog.