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**TPS Community History Summer Workshop**

**Bradley University**

**June 18, 20, 29, and 30, 2012**

**An Introduction to Teaching with Primary Sources**

Using primary source artifacts and documents of people, places, and events have long been mainstays in the social sciences. Historians understand the importance of connecting original items for the construction of “whole” stories of people, places, and events. The challenge for educators is to provide authentic learning experiences for the teaching and learning of Social Studies and all content areas.

This project has evolved out of a federally funded initiative through the Federation of Illinois Independent Colleges and Universities. The Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) project, <http://tps.nl.edu> is in its fifth year and is composed of four participating higher education institutions in the State of Illinois. The objective of the pilot program was to aid educators’ with the use of the Library of Congress digital primary sources. TPS combines technology and curriculum and assists with the use and creation of learning activities for the teaching and learning process.

The intent of the project was to provide preservice teachers and inservice teachers with tools to enhance students’ skills as they read photographs, make personal connections, use map and location skills, prints, texts, and create projects using primary sources for teaching and learning in the content areas. All instructional practices utilize primary source materials from the Library of Congress website [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov) .

**What are Primary Sources?**

Every human being creates primary sources throughout their lifetime. Primary sources are records of existence. We communicate and write documents, such as letters, journals, reports, signatures on forms, birth announcements, certificates, marriage licenses, photographs in a family album, records of vacations, art work that children have created, and items purchased for our homes.

Primary source artifacts are original records of people, places, events, and objects. Some primary sources have specific dates labeling them as to their origination and others can be connected to a general timeline.

Primary sources come in a variety of formats and media types. Sources may be in paper form, such as diaries, journals, posters, sheet music, books, and official documents. Movies or motion pictures, audio recordings including interviews, news, music, maps, objects, and photographs are all primary source artifacts that have been created throughout history.

**Websites:**

**Library of Congress** [**www.loc.gov**](http://www.loc.gov/)

**National-Louis University** [**www.tps.nl.edu**](http://www.tps.nl.edu/)

**Bradley University** [**http://hilltop.bradley.edu/~mcmullen/TPS/**](http://hilltop.bradley.edu/~mcmullen/TPS/)