

Title of Session: Frazel Features! Edison: Life-Long Learner

Moderator: Midge Frazel

Title of File: 20070227frazeledison

Date: February 27, 2007

Room: After School Online

Room: ASO

BJB2 wonders if Midge is ready to start the discussion about Edison?

MidgeF: OK I will start.

MidgeF: If Jennifer Hudson was a loser at American Idol, she became a winner of an Academy Award for her first movie proving that failures can be turned into success with perseverance

MidgeF: My hero Tom (as I like to think about him)

MidgeF: was a real loser

MidgeF: In my newspaper a month or so ago, there was an article about him

MidgeF: and his inventions

MidgeF: Some time back I made a Web page about him blending social studies, science and language arts

MidgeF: with a sprinkling of genealogy

MidgeF: <http://www.MidgeFrazel.net/edison.html>

MidgeF: Everything I read about him shows what an unusual person he was...

MidgeF: Even his museum has been renovated to join the new age of information

MidgeF: He was copyright obsessed

MidgeF: The article says...in essence that he was the Greatest inventor in American history also had the most failures

MidgeF: I really feel that to be great you must experience failure and learn to deal with it.

MidgeF: What do you think?

GaryML: I think everyone experiences failure here and there

GaryML: it's how you come back from it that matters

MidgeF: Perseverance may be the key... and I think we all are guilty of giving up too soon

MidgeF: I was struck by the speeches at the Oscars and what they had to say this year.

MidgeF: Forest thanked his ancestors.

MidgeF: Roots had a big impact on us all.

MidgeF: Anyway, Edison has these failures...

MidgeF: Failed to use cement to build small things

MidgeF: Failed to combine sound and motion to make talking movies

MidgeF: Failed to find a practical way to mine iron ore

MidgeF: But, he kept at it and he vowed after many failures and some successes to only invent things that will sell

GaryML: We're lucky he stayed the course

MidgeF: I thought coming to that practical decision made the difference

MidgeF: Yes, we are. 1, 093 patents

GaryML: how many of his patents were successful?

MidgeF: Did you know you can use Google Patents to search for patents?

GaryML: never heard of google patents

MidgeF: Some of his patents are considered more successful today...as typical of forward thinkers.

BJB2 wasn't aware of google patents either

MidgeF: When you go to Google look for it under More..

MidgeF: I stumbled over it one day and typed in my father-in-laws name. He is 93 and a retired engineer

MidgeF: It's a big hit with the family looking at his patents. (Not that any of us understand them)

MidgeF: I do know that (one Web site listed on my page) has a lot of lists and explanation of his patents

MidgeF: Where he wasn't a success at small projects he persevered and succeeded on a large scale

MidgeF: Like the light bulb

MidgeF: Wasn't the first to invent a light bulb since Joseph Swan developed a different version a year earlier but he did establish the framework to light entire cities.

MidgeF: We would sure be in the dark today. My whole life depends on electricity.

MidgeF: I even was busy looking at his family tree...

GaryML: I think everyone's does

MidgeF: But by far my favorite things are his movies

MidgeF: Yes, during power outages I think about that a lot.

MidgeF: The Library of Congress has a great thing about his movies.

MidgeF: Some are silly, like "The Kiss" and probably very shocking for its time

MidgeF: Have you seen any of them?

GaryML: sorry I haven't, I didn't even know Edison was involved with movies

MidgeF knows you must be looking at my Edison Web page....

MidgeF: That's the coolest part of Edison...his crazy obsession with film.

GaryML: interesting

MidgeF: I was so stunned by the movie he took of the people coming off the ferry onto Ellis Island.

MidgeF: I show it to everyone.

MidgeF: I think that kids might like looking at these and comparing it to what they can make today

MidgeF: Sorta like the YouTube of the past.

BJB2 smiles

MidgeF: I think it is a great snapshot of the world in tiny black and white silent film

MidgeF: I have been working with my friend Gail Petrie of the LOC. She sent me a lot of great things about Ellis Island.

MidgeF: My grandparents (one set) came through there. I can't imagine how hard it must have been.

MidgeF: It makes us appreciate so much of what we have to thank Edison for...

BJB2: the times were sooo different then

MidgeF: But, maybe not as different as it first appears. Immigration in the past is insanely like today.

MidgeF: I did a lot of background for a book that I didn't write and learned a lot about attitude.

MidgeF: People were just as unhappy about all the foreigners as they are today.

MidgeF: America is a place of great diversity.

GaryML: why the hostility to foreigners back then?

BJB2: same reason as now, Gary...

BJB2: jobs

MidgeF: A lot of the same reasons. They took jobs. Were here for crime...

MidgeF: Didn't speak English. Took low paying wages.

GaryML: I think the influx of drugs is a major reason today, was that a problem back then?

MidgeF: That's why we had Ellis Island to try to check each person who came here.

MidgeF: Well, if you look at history then the drug problem becomes an industry

MidgeF: The factory workers in NY was a big problem

MidgeF: Immigrants who came here first put the next wave into slavery.

MidgeF: There's always a problem...sigh

MidgeF: Now instead of a problem here in the East..the problem is where you are Gary in Texas

GaryML: are the prejudices towards immigrants justified though?

MidgeF: I think sometimes...

GaryML: yep, the border is a nightmare with drugs

GaryML: Laredo is a war zone

MidgeF: It's one of those deals we can't resolve.

MidgeF: Without bloodshed and violence.

GaryML: too many powerful cartels control drugs to ever go away peacefully

MidgeF: But, Edison evidently was in the thick of this when he took the films

MidgeF: And then he moved to NJ as the city of NY was too noisy (even for a deaf man)

MidgeF: I have gathered as many links as I think are relevant for lesson making for teachers and I can tell you this page is one of my top visited pages

MidgeF: As a social studies teacher, Gary, what drew you to this session?

GaryML: A couple reasons...

GaryML: first I'm taking courses for my masters and I'm required to log in to Tapped In a couple times a week, and secondly I wanted to find out more about Edison

MidgeF: Two good reasons. (I just got my Master's)

GaryML: I've been to some sessions that I didn't like so I thought an Edison discussion would be interesting

MidgeF: I love all the new technologies but I think teachers still need the resources of the curriculum based Web pages.

MidgeF: So I still have these types of sessions on topics of interest.

MidgeF: (I am glad you came...)

MidgeF: I am a recent lover of history

GaryML: My wife calls me a history nerd, I'm always looking to find out new info

MidgeF: and my knowledge of Edison before this was all about the science..since my undergrad degree is in that.

MidgeF: Midge is a History Channel junkie

MidgeF: I think that the American Memory resources are great.

GaryML: yeah me too, though they haven't shown my favorite show in a while

MidgeF: I love history more now that I am continuing to heavily research my family

MidgeF: They actually did one on the battle of the Revolution my ancestors fought in..

GaryML: wow, which battle was that?

MidgeF: and the Massacre at Mystic about the problems with the Native Americans

MidgeF: Battle of Brooklyn

MidgeF: sometime called the Battle of Long Island

GaryML: did you see that 12 part series on the Revolution last summer?

MidgeF: I have seen some of them

GaryML: they broke down that battle pretty well. Washington was almost caught on Long Island

MidgeF: When you live in New England, you still live a lot of this daily.

MidgeF: My ancestors were in CT at that point and must have marched there on foot.

GaryML: I've been to Boston only once, but I managed to see a lot of the historical aspects of the city. I'm reading a really good book right now on the Rev

MidgeF: One was named Gallup and he was a Colonel.

GaryML: interesting

MidgeF: What's it called>

MidgeF: I found his grave.

GaryML: Rise to Rebellion by Jeff Shaara, his father wrote Killer Angels about Gettysburg

MidgeF: I am reading Nathaniel Philbrick's Mayflower (as I am a descendant)

GaryML: sounds like you have a lot of history in your family

MidgeF: My other famous ancestor was a Civil War Hero. Want to see him?

GaryML: sure

MidgeF: <http://www.MidgeFrazel.net/barber.html>

MidgeF: What do you think?

GaryML: that's very intriguing, you have a lot of history in your family

MidgeF: Yes, I have known about him a long time. He's my grandmother's grandfather and her other grandfather fought too.

GaryML: did he fight in any of the big battles of the Civil War?

MidgeF: Petersburg

MidgeF: That's the Medal of Honor he's wearing.

GaryML: does your family still have the medal or other honors of his?

MidgeF: No, It is lost.

MidgeF: I think my great aunt had it and when she died they didn't know what it was.

GaryML: that's too bad

MidgeF: They flipped out at the cemetery when I showed them his photo.

MidgeF: The school children go to his grave so I donated a scan of the photo.

GaryML: how old is the photo

MidgeF: I just found (online) a photo of my other 2nd great grandfather.

MidgeF: We figure he just got his medal and still fit in the jacket. I can't remember the year but it was not too long before he died

MidgeF: Well, Gary, I hope you had a better time at my session tonight

GaryML: yes I did, I found it interesting, and it's always great to chat with a history lover

MidgeF: My ancestors would be pleased. I share them if you want to copy his photo.

BJB2: thanks, Midge, for leading the discussion. Fascinating information as always!

GaryML: Thanks Midge

MidgeF: You're welcome. Next month I'm having a picnic

BJB2 . o O (March 27 is the next Frazel Features)