For this year’s National History Day project, I chose Prohibition in the United States. I chose this topic because I think it’s a unique event in American history and I felt not many people would consider this topic. I think that this is interesting because the 18th amendment was the only amendment ever to be repealed. I also chose this topic because my great-great grandfather bootlegged liquor in South Dakota during Prohibition.  Knowing that I have a family member that was alive during this time period and rebelled against Prohibition interested me the most. I think that having a personal connection to my topic made this a very good choice. Overall, I chose this topic because I think it is a very unique event in American history.

When researching, I found most of my facts about Prohibition on the internet. I searched through many websites and found a lot of background information, information about how Prohibition impacted America’s economy and people, and some information about why Prohibition was significant in American history. I browsed encyclopedias in my school’s library to find basic information about Prohibition and the effects it had on America. I also went to the Davenport Public Library and the St. Ambrose library to search through newspaper articles about Prohibition and to get more information from primary sources.

I made the decision to create a website because of my interest of the development and design of electronic information. I also chose to assemble a website because I had never created one before and I wanted to get a better understanding of web design. I have an interest in design and music and I wanted to combine them to make a more interesting product that was also easy to understand. Another reason I thought creating a website would be a good choice is because I get most of my entertainment, news, and information from the Internet, so producing a website seemed like a most reasonable choice. I was familiar with the music of Bix Beiderbecke and it seemed like a very appropriate sound for the era of Prohibition. The music sounds like blues but it’s also upbeat and I think it represents the battle of Prohibition. I incorporated music, photographs, and text to create an interesting project with a good amount of material that was also easy to un

Prohibition fits this year’s theme, “Rights and Responsibilities” because, in general, the ratification of the 18th amendment banned Americans from the existing right to manufacture, sell, trade alcoholic beverages. During Prohibition, citizens had a new responsibility to change their daily habits and to follow the new restrictions or face severe consequences for not doing so. The Prohibitionists believed that it was their responsibility to keep Americans away from the damages that alcohol had caused.  Overall, Americans once had the right to do as they pleased with alcohol, but that right was revoked and responsibilities changed and new rights were implemented.