

We wanted to study a local topic that was related to issues that are important in America today. The news was saturated with people protesting government overreach. Many people felt that the federal government was intruding on state territory and individual rights. As we looked for historic examples of people protesting for what they believed in, we found Prohibition. During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, groups organized to preach temperance in America and encouraged states to become “dry”. Initially, people wanted to fix the problems that alcohol created in society, but they fought for a constitutional amendment when they realized the travel between wet and dry states confused the issue. Prohibitionists influenced politicians to pass the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment. This was the first and only constitutional amendment to limit personal rights. But with the Volstead Act, the government went too far, and average people soon demanded repeal. People again organized and protested this restrictive law until it was overturned by the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment.

Looking for a local connection, we researched how Prohibition affected rural Appalachian farmers during that time. These farmers had a history of making homemade alcohol to supplement their income. Early farmers, lacking reliable transportation and dependable roads, could more easily transport corn to market after it was processed into whiskey. We argue that **REFORMING** the country’s moral values through prohibition laws negatively impacted the farmers’ income, so they **REACTED** by going underground, selling “moonshine” illegally. By using Henry Ford’s **REVOLUTIONARY** automobiles, they were able to expand their businesses to support their families.

Initially we all did general research into the history of Appalachian rural life and the Prohibition Era. Then we divided the work into different focuses and each of us took one to study more deeply. We used historical documents, biographies, and documentaries to help us learn more. We read historical articles on all sides of the issue: wet vs. dry and moonshiner vs. revenuer. We visited museums, the NASCAR Hall of Fame and even a moonshine distillery for even more information. We also interviewed people who were connected to Appalachian life.

We created a group Google document to write the script and share resources. We built our site using the NHD website builder. Using HTML and CSS, we created an interactive way to show both sides of the Prohibition debate. We added images of people involved in the debate and programmed popup boxes to appear when they were hovered over. Finally, each person worked on adding the words, images, and videos for his pages.

Although NASCAR is a long-term impact of the Prohibition and moonshine story, the bigger story is how the American people will stand up and fight against government overreach. The Declaration of Independence states that the government receives “power from the consent of the governed”. It is up to the people to hold our elected officials accountable. And when we feel that they are abusing their powers, we have the right to protest and speak out for change.