



# The American Dream Starts @your library



## September Monthly 2013 Program

In 2013 The American Dream Starts @  
The Southeast Steuben County Library!

The library is offering a variety of programs and resources for Adult Learners of English. And this program is made possible courtesy of a grant awarded by the American Library Association and The Dollar General Foundation.

And this is a handout for our September 2013 American Dream program which focuses on offering patrons fun bits of American history and popular culture to assist patrons in learning more about American history and culture.

Southeast Steuben County Library

Corning, NY 14830

Tel: 607-936-3713

Website: [SSCLIBRARY.ORG](http://SSCLIBRARY.ORG)



## American/English Language History & Popular Culture Section:

### Events That Occurred In American History During The Month of September:

- September 8, 1986: The Oprah Winfrey Show Premieres On American TV
- September 12, 1915: The Great American Athlete Jessie Owens Is Born
  - September 14, 1901: President McKinley Assassinated
- September 15, 1789: Classic American Author James Fenimore Cooper Born
  - September 15, 1857: President William Howard Taft Born
- September 16, 1620: The Mayflower Departs Plymouth, England for America
- September 17, 1972: The Classic American Dramady (comedy-drama) Mash Premieres On TV



## September 8, 1986: The Oprah Winfrey Show Premieres On American TV



On September 8, 1986 The Oprah Winfrey show is broadcast across the United States for the first time.

The Oprah Winfrey show was a day time talk show that made its hostess a house hold name. The Oprah show highlighted current popular culture events and trends, offered entertainment in the guest stars that appeared on the show and also focused on discussing some tough social issues. Millions of of Americans watched show and it went on to become the most successful talk show of all time. The show ran on television from 1986 until 2011 when Oprah ended the show so she could work on other projects.

Also of note, Oprah Winfrey is an actress as well as a talk show hostess and has received critical acclaim for her acting roles in a variety of films including “The Color Purple” from 1985, “The Women of Brewster Place” from 1989 and “The Butler” from 2013. And here’s a link to a History Channel webpage that offers more information on Oprah and her show.

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/oprah-goes-national>

# On This Day In American History: September 12, 1915: The Great American Athlete Jessie Owens Is Born



"Jesse Owens at start of record breaking 200 meter race."  
Photo taken at the 1936  
Olympics in Berlin, Germany.

Jesse Owens was born James Cleveland Owens on September 12, 1913 in Oakville, Alabama. He received the nickname Jesse, by which he was known by for the rest of his life, when he was in grade school and a teacher asked him his name and heard him say what she thought was "Jesse" when in fact he had told her his name was J.C. (for James Cleveland).

As a high school student Owens won three track and field events at the 1933 National Championships. And as a college student at Ohio State University he broke three world records in track and field events.

In 1935 Owens, who ran so fast he was known as the "Buckeye Bullet," participated in the Big Ten Championship athletic games and set new world records in the long jump, 200-yard dash and 200-yard hurdles competitions and tied a world record in the 100-yard-dash competition.

## More On Jesse Owens (page 2 of 3)



In 1936 Jesse Owens was a part of the United States Olympic Team that went to Berlin, Germany to participate in the Olympic Games. At the time Adolph Hitler and the Nazi Party were in power in Germany and they expected their athletes to dominate the games showing their superiority as members of Aryan race. Hitler in fact publicly derided the U.S. Olympic team because it contained black athletes.

And as the games unfolded it became apparently that the African-American athletes were among the best athletes at the Olympics. The American team won 11 gold medals during the 1936 Olympics and six of those gold medals were won by black athletes. And the best athlete at the 1936 Olympics was in fact an athlete named Jesse Owens who just happened to be black. Owens won four gold medals during the games. He won medals for the 200 meter & 400 meter relays, the long jump and the 100 meter jump. Owens also broke two Olympic records during the games.

## More On Jesse Owens (page 3 of 3)



<http://www.gq.com/style/blogs/the-gq-eye/2012/07/your-morning-shot-jesse-owens.html>

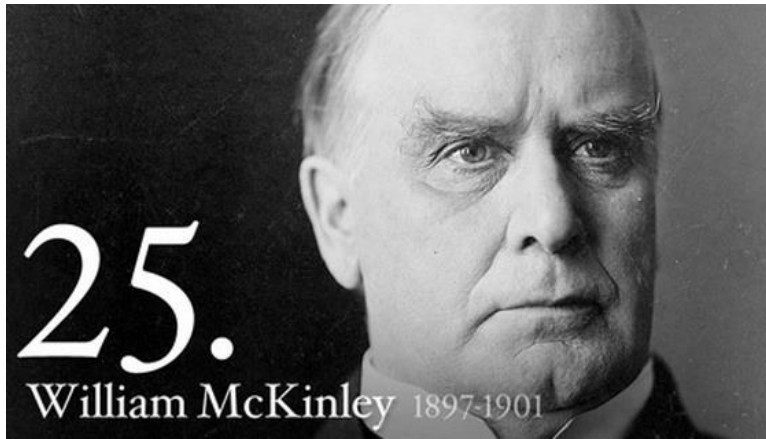
After the 1936 Olympics Owens returned home to a subdued welcome. He was not welcomed back by the President of the United States as a white athlete would have been and in fact he had to wait 30 years before the United States government formally recognized his great contributions to American athletics. Owens retired from amateur sports after returning home from the Olympics and for a time made money as a professional athlete by winning races against horses and cars and then playing with the professional basketball team The Harlem Globetrotters.

Owens later became a successful working in the public relations field. And he was finally formally recognized by the U.S. government for his spectacular contributions to sports in the United States in 1976 when President Gerald Ford awarded him the Congressional Medal of Freedom the highest civilian honor a citizen of the United States can receive.

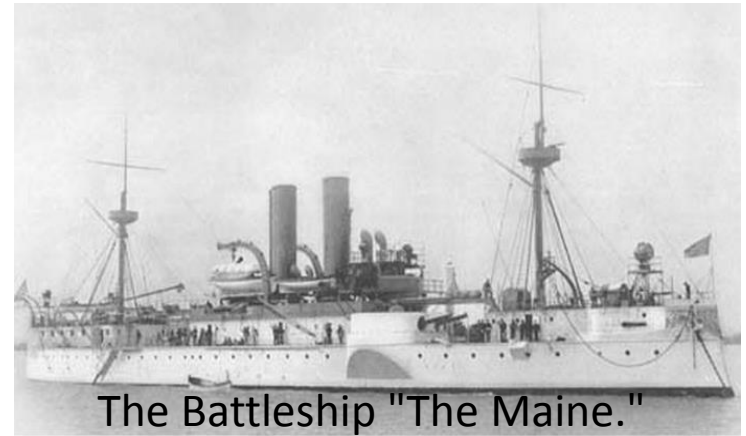
Owens died of cancer in 1980.



## On This Day In American History: September 14, 1901: President McKinley Assassinated



<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/williammckinley>

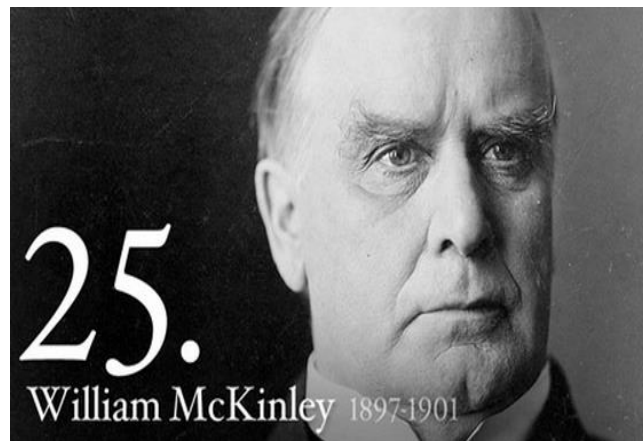


<http://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/1898/img/maine1.jpg>

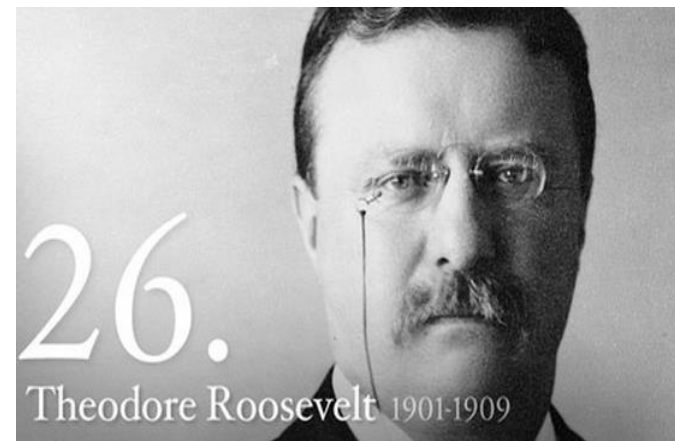
President William McKinley was born on January 29, 1843 in Niles Ohio. McKinley served in the Union Army during the American Civil War, served in the U.S. Congress and as Governor of Ohio before being elected President of the United States in 1897.

Today President McKinley is best known for serving as President during the Spanish American War. The Spanish American War was a war the United States ostensibly fought with Spain over the issue of the widely publicized mistreatment of the Cubans people by their Spanish colonial government but in reality the war was fought in large part because it was thought that America like Britain, France and other prominent western nations needed to build an empire to maintain a strong standing on the world stage. The war broke out when the U.S. Navy ship "The Maine" exploded and sank in Havana Harbor in April of 1898 . Dozens of sailors died in and the U.S. Government blamed Spain for the sinking of the ship. The U.S. won the Spanish American War and seized control of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, The Philippines and other smaller islands that were previously a part of Spain's global empire.





<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/williammckinley>



<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/theodoreroosevelt>

In 1900 President McKinley ran for and won a second term as U.S. President.

On September 6, 1901 President McKinley was in Buffalo, New York and was standing in a receiving line in front of the Pan-American Exposition shaking hands with people when a self described anarchist named Leon Czolgosz came to the front of the line, pulled out a revolver and shot President McKinley twice. The President was taken to a nearby hospital but died eight days later. McKinley's Vice President Theodore Roosevelt then became the 26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

Here's a link to a Biography bio of President McKinley:

<http://www.biography.com/people/william-mckinley-9393177>

A link to a YouTube clip of actual footage of President McKinley being sworn in for his second term of office in 1901:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8fd396pW\\_c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8fd396pW_c)

And a link to a YouTube clip on President McKinley taken from the History Channel series The Presidents: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2z1svIX9ZA>





## On This Day In American History: September 15, 1789: Classic American Author James Fenimore Cooper Born



*James Fenimore Cooper.* Illustration from the *New Monthly Magazine*, April 1831. Courtesy of the Library of Congress (LC-USZ62-39311).

Author James Fenimore Cooper was born on September 15, 1789 in Burlington, New Jersey to William and Elizabeth Cooper. In 1790 William moved his family to an area near the bottom of Ostego Lake in New York and founded the town of Cooperstown. As a young man Cooper joined the U.S. Navy but left the service when he was in his early twenties after his father died and he inherited sufficient funds to make him self sufficient.

Cooper married Susan De Lance in 1811 and they moved to Westchester County where they raised a family of seven children and where James began to write.

## On This Day In American History: September 15, 1789: Classic American Author James Fenimore Cooper Born Continued:

At right, Daniel Day Lewis in the 1992 film “The Last of the Mohicans.”



<http://flyhigh-by-learnonline.blogspot.com/2010/11/last-of-mohicans-my-review-for-native.html>

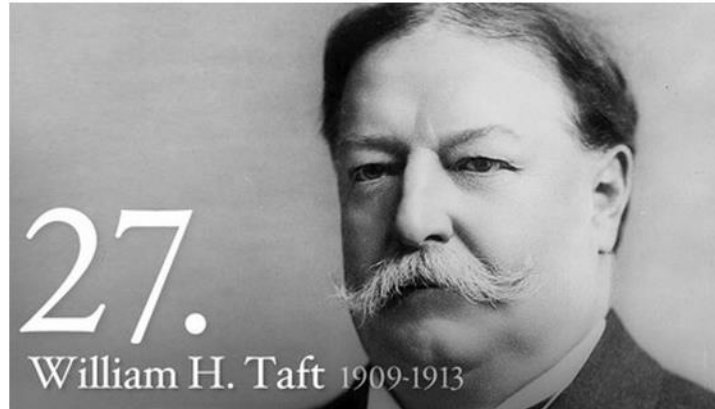
James Fenimore Cooper became a successful author and is known today as one of the best early American writers. He wrote many books from the 1820s through the 1840s and among the best known are the five books known collectively as “The Leatherstocking Tales.” The Leather Stocking Tales offer an insightful look at what life was like on the American frontier in the 18th century.

The books are narrated by an honorable protagonist named Natty Bumppo and showcase the conflicts between the Europeans, American colonists and the Native American tribes set against the rugged backdrop of the American wilderness which at that time was located just west of the border of the original thirteen United States.

The five books in the series are: The Pioneers, The Last of the Mohicans, The Prairie, The Pathfinder and The Deerslayer.

The book The Last of the Mohicans has been used as the basis for several films of the same name including a silent version from 1920, a version starring the classic Hollywood actor Randolph Scott from 1936 and one starring Daniel Day Lewis from 1992.

## On This Day In American History: September 20, 1857 President William Howard Taft Was Born



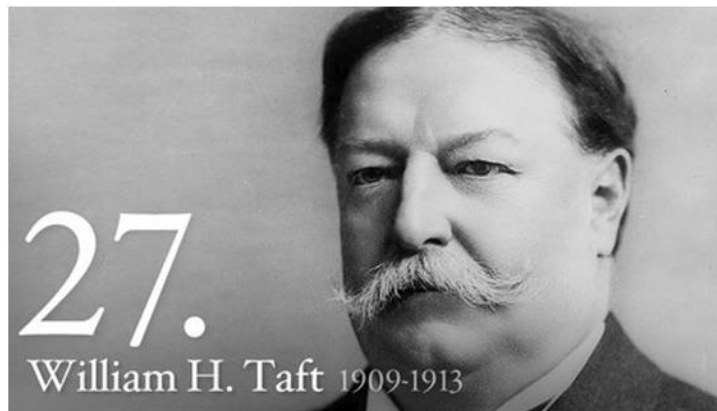
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/williamhowardtaft>

William Howard Taft was the son of a judge who became a lawyer and a judge himself. He wound up in politics because of his judicial work but wanted to become a member of the U.S Supreme Court not President of the United States. Taft wound up in the White House by a diplomatic route. He was appointed chief administrator to the Philippines, which at that time were a territory of the United States by President McKinley in 1900 and did a great deal to improve the living conditions of the Filipino people.

President McKinley's successor, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Taft as his Secretary of War and then decided that Taft should be his successor. And Roosevelt being a very determined and persuasive individual got his way – the Republican committee nominated Taft to become their party's nominee for president in 1909. Taft won the election but had a very difficult four years as president being caught between congressman and senators who were members of the Progressive movement and conservatives. Taft was nominated to serve a second term in 1912 but he lost to Woodrow Wilson.



## On This Day In American History: Sept. 20, 1857: President William Howard Taft Was Born: Continued:



After he left the White House Taft taught law at Yale University until President Harding appointed him Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 1921. Chief Justice Taft retained that position until shortly before his death in 1930. Taft was thrilled to work on the Supreme Court and felt that his work on the court was his real legacy not his presidency; he even reportedly said “I don’t even remember being president.” (White House Online)

Here’s a link to a YouTube clip of the portion of the History Channel miniseries “The Presidents;” which offers a nice six minute and fifty five second overview of Taft’s Presidency:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6H97Fgqrs4>

And a link to a White House biography of President Taft:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/williamhowardtaft>

**On This Day In American History: September 16, 1620: The Mayflower sets sail for America**



The photo at right is from the Plimoth Plantation website and shows a modern recreation 1620 era sailing ship.

<http://www.plimoth.org/learn/just-kids/homework-help/mayflower-and-mayflower-compact>

On September 16, 1620 the Mayflower set sail for America from Plymouth, England. The ship carried 102 passengers and arrived in what would become Plymouth, Massachusetts on November 21. The colonists consisted of religious dissenters and entrepreneurs who wished to become successful by obtaining their own land in America.

While the colonists were sailing to America they drew up a governing document known to history as the “Mayflower Compact” which was the first constitutional law for governing European Americans in the New World and established a rule by the majority vote of the settlers.

The colonists weren’t prepared for living in what was then a wild coastal region and more than half the colonists died of disease and starvation during the first year of the colony. In 1621 supply ships arrived from England to restock the colony’s supplies and Plymouth became the first permanent New England settlement in the New World; and the second permanent European settlement in the World, after the Jamestown Virginia Colony which was established in 1607.

## On This Day In American History: September 16, 1620: The Mayflower sets sail for America Continued:

This street scene in New Towne shows the growth of the original settlement beyond the walls of the fort, visible in the background. Today, visitors can see traces of both communities at Jamestown. *Courtesy of the National Park Service and the Harpers Ferry Commissioned Art Collection*



The picture seen at left is from the National Parks Service website located at the following link:

[http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/cultural\\_diversity/Jamestown\\_National\\_Historic\\_Site.html](http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/cultural_diversity/Jamestown_National_Historic_Site.html)

In the early 1820s the group of settlers that founded the Plymouth Colony began to be referred to as “pilgrimes” the term was taken from a manuscript written by colonial era Massachusetts Governor Bradford and this term evolved into the word “Pilgrims” which has been used to collectively describe those first Plymouth settlers ever since.

Additionally of note is the fact that the first Thanksgiving was held in Plymouth, Massachusetts in the fall of 1621. The celebration was held by the colonists and attended by the colonists and members of the local Wampanoag Indians who helped the colonists survive by showing them how to grow crops in the sandy New England soil and also showing them what foods they could grow. This holiday became a national holiday in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is currently celebrated on the third Thursday of November. The original Thanksgiving celebration was held basically for the colonists to give thanks for the fact that they had survived the last year under the harsh conditions they found when they arrived in the region.

Today the Thanksgiving celebration is a day to celebrate the founding of the Plymouth colony and the fact that those early colonists survived to found the second permanent European settlement in America.

Of course, it is also important to note that there were thousands of Native American tribes living in area that eventually became the United States and those tribes were, to say the least, not treated well by most European Americans during the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Click the following link to be taken to a History webpage that offers more info on the Mayflower:

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/mayflower-departs-england>

## September 17, 1972: The Classic American Dramady (comedy-drama) Mash Premieres On TV

Originally Mash was a book published under the pseudonym Richard Hooker by Dr. Richard Hornberger. Dr. Hornberger was a U.S. Army doctor who worked as a MASH (or Mobile Army Hospital Unit) in Korea during the Korean War (1951-1953). And the book MASH relayed what life was like for the doctors, nurses, MASH Support staff and the wounded soldiers they treated. When it was published the book became a bestseller and the basis the Robert Altman film of the same name that was released in 1969. The movie too was very successful and became the basis for a television series also called MASH that was exceptionally popular and ran on American television from 1972 to 1981.

The television series MASH featured an in-depth mixture of comedy and drama and the series was so successful at mixing those elements that a new word was created to describe the series – “dramady.”

A photo showing the original cast of Mash:



[http://www.posters.ws/15515/alan\\_alda/mash](http://www.posters.ws/15515/alan_alda/mash)

A later photo of the cast of Mash:



<http://mashonline.blogspot.com/>

The television series characters originally consisted of two young and exceptional civilian doctors who had been drafted into the U.S. Army, Captains Benjamin Franklin “Hawkeye” Pierce & “Trapper” John McEntire, an inept regular army doctor Major Frank Burns, a by-the-book regular army nurse Major Margaret “Hot Lips” Houlihan, a middle age commanding officer who was also a draftee Colonel Henry Blake, a U.S. Army Chaplain, Father Francis Mulcahy and two support staff characters Corporal “Radar” O’Reilly who was the MASH company clerk and Corporal Max Klinger who was an orderly and all round support person. Hawkeye and Trapper John were always playing practical jokes much to the irritation and chagrin of Majors Burns & Houlihan. And poor Col. Blake usually wound up in the middle keeping the peace. And despite the antics of the staff when the wounded soldiers came in on choppers (AKA helicopters) and trucks the entire MASH staff pulled together to save those soldier’s lives.



<http://www.endedtvseries.com/tag/mash-trivia/>

MASH was so successful that the television series actually lasted more than three times longer than the Korean War ending after 11 years in 1953.

And if you haven't seen an episode of MASH the library owns all eleven seasons on DVD so you can check them out!

Here's a link to an Internet Movie Database (IMDB) page that offers more information on MASH:

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0068098/>

And here's a link to a YouTube clip that offers highlights of the first season of MASH which gives you a good idea of its dramady formula:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3PMwNoflxE>



B.B. King



<http://www.thecenterfortheperformingarts.org/tickets/producton.aspx?PID=1321>

## Music Section:

The great blues guitarist and singer B.B. King born September 16, 1925

And here's a link to a YouTube clip of B. B. King performing the song "Three O'Clock Blues" which gives you a good idea of what his great guitar playing and singing sounds like!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nPeTtg3fTB8>

And a link to a History biography of B.B. King:

<http://www.biography.com/people/bb-king-9364839>

Singing actor Frankie Avalon was born September 18, 1939.

Here's a link to a YouTube clip of Avalon singing his hit "I'll Wait For You;"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opGE1czE9ws&list=PLD36D1BBCC369816F>

And a link to a Biography bio of Frankie Avalon:

<http://www.biography.com/people/frankie-avalon-9542509>

Rock N' Roller Bruce Springsteen born September 24, 1949

Here's a link to the great American Rock N' Roll icon

Performing his hit "Glory Days;"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=inCC-PAGgRA>

And a link to a Biography bio of Bruce Springsteen:

<http://www.biography.com/people/bruce-springsteen-9491214>

Frankie Avalon



<http://www.stumptownblogger.com/2010/09/frankie-avalon-is-70-years-young-today.html>

Bruce Springsteen



<http://kvil.cbslocal.com/2012/07/16/concert-organizers-pull-plug-on-bruce-springsteen-and-paul-mccartney/>



## Tech Section: Upcoming Programs: Page 1 of 3

Listing of upcoming digital literacy programs at the library for the month of October:

**Senior Personal Technology (1 of 4): Computers: An Introduction:** Offering an introduction to computers using both Windows 8 and the Mac operating systems; offering tips as to the differences between the two systems and what users can do with a computer right out of the box.

**Program Date/Time: Thursday, October 3, 2013; 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**iPad Workshop:** This workshop offers new iPad owners an overview of how to use the iPad; and includes a discussion of useful suggested apps in categories that iPad owners might enjoy. The iPad app categories discussed include: News, Entertainment, Sports, Cooking, Games and more!

**Program Date/Time: Tuesday, October 8, 2013; 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.**

**Senior Personal Technology (2 of 4): Skype:** Learn to make video calls with Skype. We'll assist attendees in creating their own Skype account and show them the basic video calling ropes. So if you'd like to learn how to video chat with your children or grandchildren this workshop is for you!

**Program Date/Time: Thursday, October 10, 2013; 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Pinterest:** Join hostess Jenn for a program based upon recipes and DIY projects found on the fun social networking/personal interest website – Pinterest! Each program offers a delicious recipe which we then use to create the delicious dish of the day and a home decorating craft.

**Program Date/Time: Wednesday, October 16, 2013; 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p. m.**

**Digital Literacy\*:** This informal program offers patrons a chance to try out a variety of tablets (including the iPad and Google Nexus 7), e-readers, Windows 8 touch screen laptops and Macs and ask questions about how to use those devices — in a relaxed setting.

**Program Date/Time: October 16, 2013; 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

## Tech Section: Upcoming Programs (page 2 of 3)

**Senior Personal Technology (3 of 4): Tablet & E-Readers: An Introduction:** Offering attendees an overview of how to use a tablet by utilizing the Android and Apple mobile operating systems and correspondingly offering patrons a chance to try out the following tablets: the iPad, the Galaxy Tab 2 7.0, Windows RT, Google Nexus, Kindle Fire HD, Nook Tablet, Kindle Paperwhite, the Simple Touch Nook and the iPad Mini.

**Program Date/Time: Thursday, October 17, 2013; 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Teen Programming: Glogster:** Join us to learn how to use Glogster an online graphic blog maker. Use Web, images, text, music and video to create your glog.

**Program Date/Time: October 18, 2013; 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Senior Personal Technology (4 of 4): Going Online & Email Basics:** Offering an overview of what computer users can do online including searching with Google, sending and receiving email and highlighting the virtual library patrons can access from the Southeast Steuben County Library website.

**Program Date/Time: Thursday, October 24, 2013; 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

**American Dream Program\*:** This program offers a bit of American history, & pop culture in a fun presentation spotlighting historical and popular culture events that occurred during the month of the program. This program is fun and is intended for Adult Learners of English and anyone else who likes American history & pop culture history. **Program Date/Time: October 30, 2013; 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

## **Tech Section: Upcoming Programs (page 2 of 3)**

**You can also make a free One-On-One appointment with a member of our tech team!**

We'll assist you in learning how to use a new computer, e-reader, tablet or other tech device you own (this includes learning how to use new software and create resumes)!

**Just call the Reference & Technology Desk at 607-936-3713  
extension 502 to make an appointment.**

*Registration is required for library programs  
(just so we know how many people to set up for!).*

*To register for a library program please call the library at (607) 936-3713.*

## References (page 1 of 2)

25. William McKinley. White House. Online. Accessed, September 23, 2013, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/williammckinley>

27. William Howard Taft. The White House. Online. Accessed September 17, 2013, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents/williamhowardtaft>

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James Fenimore Cooper. American National Biography. Online. Accessed September 17, 2013, <http://www.anb.org/articles/16/16-00354.html>

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Oprah Winfrey. Internet Movie Database. Online. Accessed September 23, 2013,  
<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001856/>

Reiss, David. MASH: The Exclusive, Inside Story of T.V.s Most Popular Show. Indianapolis. 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox. 1980.  
Note: the library owns this book if you'd like to check it out – ask the staff the next time you visit the library!

September 16, 1620: The Mayflower Departs England. History. Online. Accessed September 17, 2013,  
<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/mayflower-departs-england>

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