

Opening Day – August 19, 2009:

Let me share some events/commentary about the month of August:

Entry:

August 4th The pressure of preparation increases upon us as the day approaches, and this day engaged every moment of our time.

August 10th Squally night and rainy morning. Saw a ship. Read Plutarch's Life of Romulus.

August 11th Up great part of the night. Wife and child sick. Saw Nothing. Calm day.

August 18th Charles two years old. Fair wind and thick fog. No observations. Read Pericles and Mrs. Grant's Letters.

I am sure that many of you are already Tweets, members of the twitterati, who read twitterature each day.

Some of you probably have no idea what I am talking about, or why.

Well, after the first two entries above, I have no doubt that you have concluded that I am not the author.

So, who was; and, what is my point?

John Quincy Adams was bound to St. Petersburg as US Ambassador to Russia in August 1809. He sailed from Charlestown on August 4, 1809. These are his line a day diary entries, exactly 200 years ago!

Still puzzled....? A young high schooler was visiting the Adams Homestead in Quincy, Massachusetts this summer and noted that a display with several of Adam's line-a-day entries looked just like tweets. Soon, the Massachusetts Historical Society created a Twitter site that has attracted thousands of folks, young and not so young, to learn more about JQA via Twitter.

We can and should harness technology to engage and empower our students, facilitate our teaching and learning, individualize our instruction, create and innovate, and have some fun with each other.

So this year, my speech is a tweet:

Welcome back. Love our children. Teach them well. Focus on results. Wishing you fair skies and gentle winds, and a very Happy New Year!