

Editors' Note

Welcome to the first issue of *Federal History*, an annual journal that continues the work of the Society's *Occasional Papers* series, published in five issues between 1997 and 2005. That publication demonstrated the Society's founding premise that historians, archivists, and others working in federal history make unique and valuable contributions to the history profession and to the understanding of our national past. We gratefully acknowledge the work of our predecessors: Roger R. Trask, founding editor of the series, and editor of issues 1–3; Rebecca H. Welch, editor of issues 4–5; and Fred M. Beck, editorial assistant.

Federal History is a forum for all scholars researching the evolution of our government and its actions. It especially aims to feature new studies and presentations offered at the Society's annual conference held in the Washington, DC, area. Federal historians, archivists, curators, editors, educators, archaeologists, and numerous other professionals offer distinct and productive insights into our understanding of American history. They are guided in their methodologies and research goals by the particular needs and missions of their offices, from the Army Center of Military History, to the National Park Service and the Library of Congress. Those employed in federal history programs work daily with an almost incomprehensible volume and diversity of federal records that affords them unique perspectives on the past. This journal provides these professionals with an online format to exhibit their work.

History professors, graduate students, and other independent scholars outside the federal government are also essential to this research and are welcome to contribute. These scholars often have interests in different social, cultural, political, and economic questions, viewing government actions and change in a wider societal context. It is critical that we consider all these approaches to understanding the development of our national past.

The contributors to this first issue exemplify these varied perspectives of government history. Michael Kazin explores the impact of the New Deal vision of “the people” on the popular imagination. Ironically, that generalized concept held together a social and political coalition in the 1930s, but also provided disparate groups with support for their conflicting agendas. William A. Blampied examines the government's adoption, during the New Deal, of scientific planning as a tool of governance; a notable departure from previous reliance on private industry and universities for research. That major policy shift to government leadership in scientific planning has become a vital component of the modern industrial state.

Franklin Noll shows how the U.S. Treasury came to produce currency and bonds during the early years of the Civil War. That development, which arose from the emergency of wartime financing, modernized the Treasury and improved its efficiency. Leah M. Wright explores the activities of black Republicans during and after the 1964 Republican Convention. Unhappy with their treatment by the party and the party's platform, they established an organization to reform the party from within, hoping to maintain a viable two-party system for African Americans. Their story allows a more complex view of the role of race, political representation, and the evolution of party politics.

We hope you enjoy this first issue, and we welcome your comments and contributions.

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Editors, *Federal History*