

## 2011 SHFG CONFERENCE HELD AT ARCHIVES II; CANTELON DELIVERS KEYNOTE TRASK LECTURE

On March 31, the 2011 SHFG Annual Conference was held at Archives II, in College Park, MD. Nearly 50 speakers and panelists made presentations at 15 plenary and concurrent sessions. The conference also featured the Annual Awards Luncheon and a business meeting.

### OPENING PLENARY SESSION

SHFG President Pete Daniel commenced the day's activities by presenting former SHFG President Philip L. Cantelon with the Society's prestigious Trask Award. Cantelon then presented the Trask Lecture as the keynote address for the conference (see article, page 4).



*Philip L. Cantelon (left) accepts Trask Award from President Pete Daniel (see story, page 4)*

### CONCURRENT SESSION 1A: DIGITAL TRIUMPHS AND TRIALS: ONLINE OUTREACH IN FEDERAL HISTORY OFFICES

*Chair: Laura Turner O'Hara, Office of the Historian, U.S. House of Representatives*

Annette Amerman, a historian with the Marine Corps History Division in Quantico, Virginia, started the session off by describing her office's efforts at digitizing records of the Historical Reference Branch. Focusing on making available records to their on-site patrons, Amerman discussed some of the obstacles faced by her office: the

use of proprietary software, a lack of web expertise, and a reliance on interns to do the bulk of the scanning. As well, she discussed the difficulties inherent in making these records open to the public outside their facility.

Educational Technology Specialist Stephanie Greenhut gave a demonstration of the National Archives and Records Administration's DocsTeach website (<http://docsteach.org/>), which is funded by the Foundation for the National Archives. Launched in the fall of 2010, it aims at helping teachers use primary documents

in the classroom. She walked the audience through several of the website's rich features: detailed scans of documents; the ability to use ready-made lessons or create one's own plans using a series of templates; and the capacity to create an account to save lessons and share assignments with students. Stephanie also discussed the evolution of the website, from one aimed specifically at new or future teachers, to popular destination, receiving more than 79,000 unique (and many repeat) visitors in its first six months.

Becca Milfeld, a Technology Outreach Specialist with George Washington's Mt. Vernon Estate, Museum, and Gardens, spoke about how she brought her experience as a fast-paced web producer at *Politico* newspaper to

*See Annual Conference continued on page 6*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By *Pete Daniel*

This has been an extraordinary year for the Society for History in the Federal Government, and it is members' volunteer work that assures the society's financial and intellectual health. Highlights for me were gathering at Clyde's to mix with old friends and hear Archivist of the United States David Ferriero's Hewlett Address, watching our new web site emerge under the direction of Benjamin Guterman, enjoying the lively holiday party, and being inspired by the spring conference. I would like to thank again those who contributed their time and effort.

Serving as president of the SHFG provoked memories that go back to the founding, a different world when computers were bulky, balky, and cursed with bugs, and when the Internet, cell phones, tablets, and the present generation of technology were not even in dreams. How did we waste time and communicate back then? I then thought back to 1982 when the SHFG was young and when I arrived at the National Museum of American History and recalled the incredible mix of curators, scholars, photographers, specialists, and riggers that enlivened each workday. It was customary before e-mail to start the day with a cup of coffee in the staff cafeteria, and in 15 minutes arrange meetings, ask for favors (in those days no requisitions were needed), and set up a play for the day. The staff cafeteria is gone, and so is much of the esprit de corps.

Growing up in a small town in North Carolina, I had no idea that life offered so many opportunities until our junior class trip to Washington in 1956 (Richard Baker also made his high school trip that year). It was inconceivable then that I would one day work for a U.S. Senator, have a univer-

sity career, work at the Smithsonian, or write a half-dozen history books. As my working career neared its end, the frustration of working in a museum with an ever-shrinking and marginalized curatorial staff, enduring visionless and sometimes malign leadership, suspecting intrusion into exhibit content by sponsors, absorbing affronts to my professional life, and realizing that I would never head another exhibit team pushed me to retire. I don't claim that there was a golden age at the Smithsonian, but I do worry that much of the vigor, daring, and intellectual excitement is gone.

Over my 27 years at American History I witnessed a slow fade of significant history from dialogue and from exhibits. Perhaps there was always pressure to Hollywood exhibits, but the steady erosion of historical content progressed through thinning curatorial ranks, intrusive donors, and compliant museum leadership. Whether this trend would have taken hold without the *Enola Gay* dispute is problematical, but certainly in the early 1990s Smithsonian leadership made it clear that controversial exhibits were doomed, as if history moves through space and time immune from conflict. In addition, the "culture wars" raged during the 1990s further clouding historical interpretations and threatening exhibits based on cutting-edge scholarship that clashed with the mythological American past. What does it mean when ideas and current scholarship are no longer the driving force of our intellectual life and when the nation's premier history museum no longer seeks excellence?

Paradoxically, during these years Smithsonian fellows produced shelves of significant and prize-winning books that museum leadership ignored. At home I have two-and-a-half shelves of fellows' books, a substantial number of them prize winners. When I proposed an exhibit on rural life in the South based largely on my scholarship and that of museum fellows, the proposal was tabled, forever. No reason was given, but I suspect that dealing with slavery and sharecropping and poverty were a bit too much for the exhibit committee. Currently there is no exhibit on rural

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life, for the old and admittedly tired Agriculture Hall was disassembled and stored several years ago, eliciting some grumpy and deserved criticisms from farmers. The museum shops epitomize the decline in intellectual interest, for when I arrived at the museum in 1982, the bookstore (more a bookstore than a shop) was an excellent place to browse for recent books on U.S. history. Now T-shirts, caps, glitter, and remainders dominate a half-dozen shops. There is the dubious assumption both in the bookstore and in the exhibits that visitors only want superficial entertainment, not serious ideas.

During the 1990s I worked on “Science in American Life” and “Rock ‘n’ Soul: Social Crossroads,” two starkly different exhibits. The science exhibit introduced me to the subtle and not-so-subtle pressures to smooth over history’s bumps, and it taught me that it is possible to resist intrusion even from a powerful funder. Curators wrote the script and had the final say on content. Had I not worked on the science exhibit I would never have discovered the pesticide issues that led to *Toxic Drift: Pesticides and Health in the Post-World War II South*, and had I not worked on “Rock ‘n’ Soul” I would never have encountered the cultural history that informs *Lost Revolutions: The South in the 1950s*. Being a federal historian, in other words, has allowed me to explore subjects that might have remained opaque in a university setting. These exhibits evolved with curatorial leadership, extensive research by interns and staff, and conversations with stakeholders and historical

actors. Exhibits require teamwork, endless reviews, and vetting. There were moments when I expected both exhibits to crash, times when pressure suggested we pull back from the historical edge, but the only options I entertained were to stick with history or resign as curator. Looking back over my career, there were times I could have been fired for insubordination, but I prefer such risks to dumbing down and skewing history and exhibits.

While I have my doubts about the vision of Smithsonian leadership and the intellectual health of the National Museum of American History, I have only optimism about the vigor and vision of the SHFG, and its ability to promote high standards and integrity in federal history work. Incoming president Matt Wasniewski has been active on the public history committee of the Organization of American Historians and is widely known and highly regarded throughout the profession. The Executive Council has taken an active role in the organization’s business, and Sejal Patel has taken on responsibilities not only with membership but also now as secretary. Benjamin Guterman has increased our reach with the improved web site and with his wise guidance of our publications program. As treasurer, David Turk has kept us informed (and solvent) throughout the year. A committee is now reviewing our bylaws that after a decade need revision to bring practice in line with regulations. We have every right to move ahead with pride and confidence.

## ELECTION OF SHFG OFFICERS FOR 2011–12

The SHFG membership has ratified the following nominees to serve as the Society’s Officers for 2011–2012:

- President: Matthew Wasniewski
- Vice President/President-Elect: Marc Rothenberg
- Secretary: Sejal Patel
- Executive Council Members: LuAnn Jones and Carl Ashley (Richa Wilison and Jason Gart will continue to serve on the 2011-12 Executive Council)
- Nominating Committee: David McMillen and Terrance Rucker (Kate Scott will continue to serve on the 2011–12 Nominating Committee).

Current Vice President (and incoming President) Matthew Wasniewski paid tribute to outgoing President Pete Daniel, outgoing Secretary Anne Rothfeld, and outgoing Executive Council Members Leo Slater and Mike Bigelow, stating: “I’d also like to extend a hearty round of thanks and congratulations to our outgoing officers who have given so generously of their time, energy, and talents over the years. We’re in your debt, and the Society is as healthy as it is because of your contributions.”

## A NOTE OF THANKS

The editors wish to express their gratitude to several Society members who contributed summaries of concurrent sessions to this issue: Laura O’Hara, Bill Williams, Kate Scott, Betty Koed, David Turk, John Fox, and LuAnn Jones. They did an outstanding job of covering for two editors who were unable to attend the conference, and they will be rewarded enlistment on the editors’ list of people to go to in a pinch.

## CORRECTION

In the “Making History” section of the Winter 2011 issue, the *Federalist* incorrectly reported the title of the new book by Col. David A. Benhoff. The correct title of the book, which was published by the Marine Corps University Press, is *Afghanistan, Alone and Unafraid*.

## CANTELON RECEIVES TRASK AWARD EMPHASIZES “CRUCIBLE OF CHANGE” IN WHICH SHFG AND HISTORY ASSOCIATES WERE BORN

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Philip L. Cantelon, founding member and former president of SHFG, and co-founder, former president, and current Chairman of the Board of History Associates Incorporated (HAI), received the 2011 Trask Award at the opening plenary session of the annual SHFG Conference.

The Trask Award is named in honor of the late Roger L. Trask, a former professor at Macalester College and the University of Florida who when on to serve as Deputy Chief Historian of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Chief Historian of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Chief Historian of the General Accounting Office. In 1990–91, Trask was president of SHFG. The Trask Award honors those “whose careers and achievements reflect a commitment to, and an understanding of, the unique importance of federal history work and the Society’s mission.”

Keynoting the annual conference by delivering the Trask Lecture, Cantelon emphasized the importance of change and crisis in shaping both SHFG and HAI over the past 30 years. Both organizations, he declared, were born during a “crucible of change—a job shortage for trained historians;” both organizations contended early on with opposition within the historical community; and both organizations had to adapt to great change, ultimately thriving through the adoption of new approaches and business models, and mastering the revolution in automation and methods of communication.

Roger Trask, Cantelon noted, “personified” such changes, embracing his role as the Society’s “conscience,” and “prodding it to be more inclusive [and] more active in defending federal history programs....”

SHFG was born in the aftermath of the “unemployment crisis” of the 1970s, when historians fresh out of graduate school found a dearth of university teaching jobs. Many went to work for the federal government instead, where academic historians tended to impose a “second class professional status” upon them. Frustrated by the lack of interest shown by traditional professional organizations in their work, younger federal historians—encouraged by senior members of the federal historical community, such as Richard Hewlett and Wayne Rasmussen—moved to establish their own professional organization, SHFG.

Even among others in the public history field, there were fears that the creation of a professional organization devoted to the promotion and practice of federal history would “balkanize the profession.” Not only did that not happen,

but the historical profession—in Cantelon’s view—was “greatly strengthened” by the development.

Meanwhile, the new Society struggled with its own status issues internally, dividing federal employees from contractors, that mirrored the divisions between academic and non-academic historians. Ultimately, the Society opted for a policy of inclusion that brought together everyone with an interest in federal history, whether employed by the federal government or not, but Cantelon wondered how the Society would perform if “faced today with another crisis, job or otherwise....”

Just as the creation of SHFG represented a response to the employment and status crises in the history profession, Cantelon stated that “most of my professional life has been a product of adapting and changing the practice of history in periods of crisis.”

Like many of his fellow founding members of SHFG in the late 1970s, Cantelon faced long odds in securing tenured academic employment. Whereas others landed appointments with federal agencies, Cantelon “stumbled into” the field of “entrepreneurial history.”

In 1979, he accepted a contract from the Department of Energy to collaborate with Robert Williams on a history of the still on-going response to the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island. The assignment, recalled Cantelon, “changed nearly everything I learned about history.” He learned how to work in contemporary records, how to work in a team on both research and writing, how to be intellectually flexible and master a new subject area, and even how to use electronic media (albeit a primitive Vydek computer).

After a handful of contracts over the following year, Cantelon, Williams, Rodney Carlisle, and Richard Hewlett established History Associates Incorporated. The firm was incorporated on January 2, 1981, with the Department of Energy as its sole major client.

The new company’s goal, Cantelon said, “was to create a firm that would employ professional historians outside the academy and provide them not only with work but office space and equipment, competitive salaries, and benefits...without the bureaucracy of universities or federal agencies.”

As was the case with SHFG, HAI had to endure critics who questioned its professionalism. Some academic historians derided the company as a “court history” or “history for hire” operation that could not produce accurate historical work while under contract—a charge Cantelon vigorously disputed, citing awards HAI’s publications have



received. “What we try to do is produce high quality professional history on time and within budget,” Cantelon said. “I’m proud to add that none of our publications have ever been accused of ‘court history’ in any peer reviewed journal.”

And, just as the establishment of SHFG reflected changes in the historical profession, and the course of Cantelon’s own career demonstrated the importance of adapting to change, HAI had to adapt and evolve in order to succeed. When federal contracts tapered off in the early 90s, HAI re-evaluated its business model and began to focus more on developing customers within the private sector; when clients experienced problems with their records, HAI “entered the archives business;” when litigants needed historical documents to use as evidence in court cases, the company got into the field of litigation research; when opportunities presented themselves in different parts of the country, HAI opened regional offices; when electronic records gained in importance, HAI responded “ahead of much of the profession”—though perhaps not as far ahead as Cantelon would have preferred.

“But perhaps most importantly,” Cantelon said, “History Associates has successfully transitioned to a new generation of management . . . Brian Martin has replaced me as president and he has assembled a superb team of senior managers who have expanded History Associates’ business areas [and] learned to deal with their own crises . . .”

Cantelon closed his remarks by addressing “the next generation, the next group of leaders of federal history and of the Society for History in the Federal Government.” Having followed “a different career journey” than his own, these younger historians had “viewed their career as one outside the classroom, one of developing the applied role of historians in reaching a broad public.” He challenged them “to move the Society to another level,” to “advocate for more resources for federal history,” and, in particular,

to champion the establishment of history offices in every federal agency. “As the torch of federal history passes, don’t be afraid of being burned a few times,” he counseled, and concluded: “I hope my generation has left you in the next generation a strong legacy upon which to build, or even reinvent . . . the future of federal history.”

A graduate of Dartmouth College, Cantelon earned his master’s degree at the University of Michigan and his doctorate at Indiana University. A faculty member at Williams College for 9 years, he held a Fulbright Professorship of American Civilization at Kyushu National University and Seinan Gakuin University in Japan. A co-founder of History Associates Incorporated, he served as the company’s president from 1981 to 2006, and is currently Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. Among the books he authored or co-authored are *The History of Consolidated Freightways and CHF Transportation*; *The History of MCI, 1968-1988: The Early Years*; *The Roadway Story*; and *Crisis Contained: The Department of Energy at Three Mile Island*. He also co-edited the books *Corporate Archives and History: Making the Past Work* and *The American Atom*. Cantelon was President of SHFG in 1996-96, he is a former chairman of the Montgomery County (MD) Historic Preservation Commission, and past president of the Montgomery County Historical Society.

#### TRASK LECTURE ON YouTube

*Philip L. Cantelon’s Trask Lecture can be viewed in its entirety on YouTube. To watch this video, go to the Society’s website, [www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org).*



*SHFG Vice President Matt Wasniewski (far left) and President Pete Daniel (far right) flank former SHFG Presidents at Annual Conference. Left to right: Wasniewski, Phil Cantelon, Bill Williams, Mike McReynolds, Dick Baker, Mike Reis, and Daniel.*

*Annual Conference continued from page 1*

develop Mt. Vernon's online outreach. She shared some of the free resources she uses for reaching the public: two- to three-minute clips for YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/user/HistoricMountVernon>); a blog, updated three times a week, using Word Press (<http://www.georgewashington-wired.org/>); and an educational outreach website built on weebly.com (<http://www.gwleadershiplessons.org/>). Milfeld explained that, with minimal web design skill, she was able to create "micro sites" with a similar look and feel to continue Mt. Vernon's outreach efforts while their main website underwent a re-design.

The question and answer session focused on funding and developing expertise within the office for creating and maintaining these projects. There was some discussion as to whether to hire outside vendors or create projects in-house. Session chair Laura Turner O'Hara shared the government's web developer hub, <http://www.howto.gov/>, as a reference for standards on web publication.

#### **CONCURRENT SESSION 1B: UNDERSTANDING FINANCIAL CRISIS: NEW SOURCES, NEW METHODOLOGIES, NEW INSIGHTS**

*Chair: Mark A. Carlson, U.S. Federal Reserve Board*

This session explored issues related to banking crises and reforms: specifically the banking crisis of 1893 and banking reforms in the era of Theodore Roosevelt's administration. Paula Petrick, of George Mason University, discussed her research into bank failures and practices in Montana in 1893, using 294 linear feet of recently preserved and processed records from First National Bank and Merchants National Bank in Helena, MT. By 1898, the banks' assets were in receivership. A federal regulator found wrongdoing, coverup, and hiding of assets. While the nation's 1893 bank failures had several larger precipitating causes, Petrick found that these banks failed particularly because management engaged in insider loans and fraudulent practices, and had unscrupulous investors.

Wayne Zandbergen, of George Mason University, used the same banking records to test theories of bank failures, the "empirical foundation for banking." He sought to test a theory of "asymmetric information" in which larger investors having more inside information could create greater and more damaging runs on bank funds. Charting the Helena banks' deposits, he found that 2.5 percent of the depositors held the primary value. Their withdrawals led to "massive overdrafts," thus bringing down the banks. This finding of skewed distribution may be applicable to other bank failures of that era.

Jesse Stiller, historian at the Treasury Department's Office of the Comptroller, reported on the recently acquired papers of Lawrence O. Murray, 12th Comptroller of the Currency, who served under President Theodore

Roosevelt. The papers were donated by his relatives. The financial problems of the Panic of 1907 created demand for reform. The President blamed inflexible currency and believed it essential to reform the Comptroller's office. He appointed Murray to head that office. Murray pursued reform aggressively, upsetting his staff. The papers have not been examined in full, but suggest that Murray mirrored the President's zeal for reform and his energy. He was confident and sought "heroic" reforms, including substitution of salaries for fees for bank investigators. Further research will undoubtedly shed more light on the financial activities of the early 20th century.

#### **CONCURRENT SESSION 1C: CHALLENGES LARGE AND ONEROUS: CYBERSECURITY, 1965 INTO THE FUTURE**

*Chair: Bill Williams, Center for Cryptologic History, National Security Agency*

Michael Warner, the Command Historian at U.S. Cyber Command, discussed the shifting computer- and cyber-security organizations and policies of the U.S. Government since the problems of privacy and data spillage were first recognized in the 1960s. Congress and Administrations have wrestled with several enduring issues in this realm, particularly the need for centralized standard setting and security awareness and the desirability of military influence over federal and civilian data and networks. The current division of cybersecurity labor across the federal government has been the result of a long series of vocal debates and hard-fought compromises. John Fox, Chief Historian at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), covered the evolution of cybercrime investigations and the Bureau's growing role in the field. With the explosion of personal computer ownership and networking in the late 1970s, computer crime proved to be different in kind from traditional criminal activities. The FBI tackled this change in two ways: first, focusing on investigations of criminal activity through



*Bill Williams (far left) chairs session on Cybersecurity; seated, left to right: John Fox, Michael Warner, Susan Rosenfeld, and Matthew Fleming*

task forces and expert investigations; and, second, addressing the growing legal issues regarding computer evidence by developing new forensic practices and working to illustrate the need for up-to-date laws to address the changing criminal threats. Susan Rosenfeld, Historian with the Air National Guard, looked at the unique position of the Air National Guard in cybersecurity. This is due to many Air Guard members in cyber-related squadrons having civilian jobs in the cyber world. Her presentation also examined the challenges the Air Guard faces in defending against penetrations of various systems and critical infrastructure on bases, and the assistance the Guard can give state government. Matthew Fleming, as commentator, asked panel members whether they felt that the roles and responsibilities of federal entities in the cybersecurity landscape were clear. He also raised the issue of whether cyber was a new type of crime or domain, or if it might represent “old wine in new bottles.” Lastly, he asked panel members whether they felt that a background in cybersecurity was helpful to historians in the cyber field. His questions, and others from the audience, led to an active discussion session.

#### **CONCURRENT SESSION 1D: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE GOOD WAR**

*Chair: Keith W. Olson, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of Maryland at College Park*

Dean Kotlowski, professor of history at Salisbury University (Md.), began with a look at Paul V. McNutt’s leadership of the Federal Security Agency (FSA), and World War II’s effect on its agenda. Little studied today but widely influential during his own time, McNutt was a professional politician of varying talents. Handsome and ambitious, McNutt developed a “holistic concept” of national defense and wartime agency administration, shifting New Deal liberalism away from an earlier emphasis on “welfare” toward a newer notion of “security.” Often at loggerheads with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, McNutt worked to liberalize the country’s social security system while building his credentials for higher national office. Under his leadership, the FSA invested considerable effort on defense mobilization, including detailed studies by the War Research Service into biological warfare. Roosevelt, somewhat threatened by McNutt’s political aspirations, eventually assigned him to a diplomatic role in the Philippines.

Katherine Jellison, professor of history at Ohio University, then spoke about her ongoing research into America’s World War II propaganda and its depictions of Amish and Mennonite communities in Pennsylvania. The Office of War Information (OWI) used these farming communities for three main reasons: in a segregated country, such images were considered “safe”; the Anabaptist sects appeared to uphold traditional gender roles; and their bucolic lifestyle appeared to typify the national creation myth. The



*(Left to right): President Pete Daniel, Treasurer David Turk, and Vice President Matt Wasniewski at the Business Meeting.*

images commissioned by OWI signaled a break from the “pity” photos of the New Deal, and were intended to boost morale. With an emphasis on the family unit and America’s ability to produce, OWI cast Amish and Mennonite communities as embodiments of Norman Rockwell’s idealized nation and FDR’s Four Freedoms.

#### **CONCURRENT SESSION 1E: CRISIS AND CHANGE IN THE FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SERIES, 1861-2011**

*Chair: William B. McAllister, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State*

Commemorating the sesquicentennial of the publication of the State Department’s first volume of Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS), a panel of four department historians, chaired by William McAllister, described the political history of this series. Aaron Marrs explained how congressional demands for access to diplomatic correspondence created the FRUS. During the extraordinary summer session of 1861, Congress approved a resolution requesting documents from the executive branch relating to the civil war crisis. President Abraham Lincoln released these documents as the first FRUS volume. This foray into transparency, Marrs argues, was as much about explaining to a domestic audience what the administration wanted it to know, as it was about informing leaders in Congress about executive diplomacy.

Following the Civil War, FRUS quickly became a political football between the legislative and executive branches, with both using the publication to challenge the prerogatives of the other. When Congress slashed State Department funds in 1869, Peter Cozzens explained, Secretary of State Hamilton Fish, himself no friend to Congress, used the cutbacks as an excuse to kill FRUS. Congressional demands for information did not abate, however, and Fish quickly realized the folly of his decision and reversed it, resuming publication of the series during a tumultuous period in American foreign relations. Fish later found the series a useful way to promote the State Department’s foreign policy goals and to promote public diplomacy during the Cuban insurrection.



Beginning in the 1920s, FRUS underwent a transformation, a process that Josh Botts described in his paper, culminating with the publication of the controversial Yalta FRUS volume in 1955. During the early part of the 20th century the series experienced a period of professionalization, as historians introduced methodological changes that transformed the compilation and scope of the FRUS series during the postwar period. What began as an internal policy review became the Yalta volume, with State Department historians incorporating materials from other agencies, including the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the White House. The decisions taken at Yalta made this volume more controversial than its predecessors, and Congress and the White House battled over which documents should be included.

These papers represent part of an ongoing series exploring the history of the FRUS series. More information, including revised versions of these papers, can be found on the State Department website: <http://history.state.gov/frus150/research>

**CONCURRENT SESSION 2A: FEDERAL AGENCY PROGRAMS TO COMMEMORATE THE CIVIL WAR AND WAR OF 1812**

*Chair: Kristin Ahlberg, Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State*

This informative panel explored projects underway at three federal agencies to commemorate the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. Panelists included Robert Sutton, Chief Historian with the National Park Service; Betty Koed, Associate Historian for the United States Senate; and Thomas Boghardt, Senior Historian with the Department of the Army.

Sutton opened the panel with a discussion of the Park Service's preparations for these commemorations, includ-

ing a planning meeting held in Nashville, Tennessee to consider such issues as transportation, environmental concerns and historical interpretation. Sutton noted that the Park Service has broadened its interpretation of the Civil War to tell a more complete story, including frank discussions of the war's impact on women and families and the causes of the war. New interpretative programs will focus on the soldier, not just the commanders, Sutton emphasized, and all interpretations will include the fact, that slavery was the principal cause of the war—a statement that has been added to the NPS "vision statement." For more information contact: [Robert\\_Sutton@nps.gov](mailto:Robert_Sutton@nps.gov).

Koed's team in the Senate Historical Office will use the sesquicentennial to focus attention on the lesser-known history of the Senate's Civil War experience. She outlined three main projects underway: 1) A new exhibit, "The Senate's Civil War," is now available for viewing in the U.S. Capitol; 2) New online features on the topic include documentary histories, featured biographies, an annotated timeline, and a photo exhibit ([www.senate.gov/civilwar](http://www.senate.gov/civilwar)); 3) A 32-page illustrated booklet will be distributed to Senate offices and sold at nominal cost in the gift shop of the Capitol Visitors Center. For more information, contact [betty\\_koed@sec.senate.gov](mailto:betty_koed@sec.senate.gov).

Boghardt is one of two historians at the Center for Military History (CMH) tasked with planning for upcoming commemorations. Coordinating with other historians and agencies, Boghardt is now focused on four main events: the Civil War; the War of 1812; the beginning of the Great War in 1914; and commemorations for the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Some 40 publications will be written by agency and outside historians, available in print and online. Now a permanent "cell" within the CMH, Boghardt and his team are also well into the planning for other commem-



*Left to right: Bob Sutton makes presentation at panel on Civil War and War of 1812 Commemorations, with panelists Betty Koed, Kristin Ahlberg (Chair), and Thomas Boghardt.*



orative activities. For more information, contact [thomas.boghardt@us.army.mil](mailto:thomas.boghardt@us.army.mil).

#### CONCURRENT SESSION 2B: FEDERAL ART IN TIMES OF NATIONAL CHANGE

*Chair: Farar Elliott, Office of Art and Archives, U.S. House of Representatives*

Focusing on Reconstruction and the Great Depression, the panel highlighted how the federal government has translated national conflict into art. Felicia Wivchar, of the Office of Art and Archives at the U.S. House of Representatives, analyzed the numerous works by Seth Eastman that were commissioned by the House Military Affairs Committee during Reconstruction. A career soldier, Eastman's paintings depicted Native Americans, western landscapes, and U.S. military forts and compounds. With an emphasis toward quiet and stillness, Eastman's works nevertheless communicated an expansionist's perspective that appropriated both people and territory into the national imagination. As the country tried to make sense of the Civil War, Eastman's paintings of federal prisons and Union forts omitted battle scenes, and paid little mind to the previous four years of national carnage. His paintings invoked a casual, nearly carefree aloofness to the war's destructive impact upon on American citizens and on the country's landscape.

Kathy Erickson of the Fine Arts Program, Government Services Administration (GSA), next discussed the art commissioned during the New Deal and the modern efforts to catalogue and care for it. The GSA maintains and administers well over 20,000 artworks created during the 1930s and early 1940s, nearly 16,000 of which were created between 1933 and 1934 alone. With a particular emphasis on industry, the collection is composed of both paintings and sculptures. Many are "site specific" in that they deal with and are housed at public schools, hospitals, libraries, armories, and municipal, county, and state government buildings. During the cataloguing process, the GSA has uncovered numerous pieces of New Deal art once considered to be missing.

Diane Ziegler, of the Department of the Interior, then talked about artwork in the Interior Building created during the New Deal. Under the watchful eye and subtle censorship of Interior Secretary Harold Ickes, commissioned artists completed over 50 images during the late 1930s. Given the mission of the Interior Department, western themes predominate. But Ickes also sought to champion the civil rights of Native Americans and African Americans. He hired numerous Native American artists and emphasized important African American contributions to art, education, religion, and science. Ickes, who also often advocated leaving the past behind, tended to disagree with his more prominent artists, including Maynard Dixon, who felt that national tragedies should be included in the Department's artwork.



*Panelists Keith Olson and Melanie Schmidt at session on Civil Rights.*

#### CONCURRENT SESSION 2C: TWO PERSPECTIVES ON CIVIL RIGHTS

*Chair: Dean Kotlowski, Department of History, Salisbury University*

The two-person panel represented opposite historical time periods—and topics—of the Civil Rights era. Whether the subject was Housing and Urban Development's experimental methods in providing monetary assistance in the 1970s, or flipping through the largely unsung forays of the Eisenhower Administration in seeding the roots of Civil Rights, this enlightening diversity did have common threads. Both of these programs explored expanding themes within the broad framework of Civil Rights. One result appeared more fruitful than the other, but there is no doubt both efforts were new frontiers with plenty of antagonists. Both presentations offered detail well beyond broad study, employing the use of Power Point to illustrate their topics.

Doctoral candidate Melanie Keyser Schmidt, from the University of California at Los Angeles, opened the discussion with "Experimental Citizenship: HUD's Market-based Housing Assistance Experiment and Changes in Citizenship in the Post Civil Rights Decade." The late 1960s and early 1970s was still a time of finding solutions, and Schmidt explained the attempts of the agency to expand financial assistance to the poor from root programs in the 1960s. Through the Fair Housing Act, EHAP (Experimental Housing Allowance Program) was formed in 1970. Through the recommendations of the Kaiser Commission several years earlier which found more crisis in urban centers, Congress proposed a mandate to study "marketplace citizenship."

Schmidt explained that EHAP had twelve sites across the country and 30,000 participants. She compared several of the sites and the varying results of the agency's messaging to potential clients—in this case, comparing Jacksonville, Florida to Springfield, Massachusetts. This suggested

that the advertising, which really carried the program to its intended audience, could falter by commercial advertisement. Advocates felt better citizenship would result with direct cash assistance and possibilities of better housing. Opponents felt the program could not be tied to the marketplace and took away independence towards major goals. The final report for EHAP was released in 1980, but its elements continued in various ways.

Keith W. Olson, Emeritus Professor, University of Maryland at College Park, took the opposite time frame in “The Democratic Reaction to Eisenhower’s Civil Rights.” This fascinating look at the political alliances and realities of early battles in civil rights clarified some questions around these efforts—such as the struggle to end segregation in the District of Columbia and in the armed forces. The Democratic Party was divided in early 1953 between the various torchbearers: Governor James Byrnes of South Carolina, presidential candidate Adlai Stevenson, and former President Harry Truman. Although a Republican, President Dwight D. Eisenhower won because some in the Democratic Party preferred him to Stevenson. In his first year of office, Eisenhower immediately began his desegregation of theatres in the federal city by meeting with movie moguls. The following year, he began a quiet battle desegregating restaurants in Washington, D.C. New York Representative Adam Clayton Powell declared in February 1954 that Eisenhower had done more to fight discrimination than any Chief Executive since Abraham Lincoln. In truth, Eisenhower had to walk a fine line. He eschewed publicity for his own reforms, which followed the footsteps of former President Truman’s initial efforts at civil rights.

Olson explained that while the early efforts received notice, it was Eisenhower’s style that defined efforts after the May 1954 landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education*. After the death of Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, Eisenhower appointed as Jackson’s successor John Marshall Harlan II, whose grandfather was the dissenting vote in the key case involving segregation, *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Such action was not by accident. It tested Stevenson’s resolve as well, often with poor results. When the young Robert F. Kennedy worked for Stevenson, he quit after six weeks, then “quietly voted for Eisenhower.” Given Kennedy’s passion for Civil Rights, he likely believed Eisen-

hower’s record better reflected his own core beliefs at that time. Eisenhower championed portions of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, including the federal power of enforcement and prosecution in cases. Lyndon B. Johnson, then a senator, later expanded upon them. Although the Democratic Party won in 1960, there was no doubt some continuity.

## CONCURRENT SESSION 2D: DEVELOPING DIGITAL HISTORY IN A FEDERAL CONTEXT

*Chair: Benjamin Guterman, National Archives and Records Administration*

This session featured three government programs that produce online exhibitions, allowing a discussion on their contrasting goals, methodologies, and approaches. The differences in their programs and exhibits result from different records and materials, as well as agency missions.

Cheryl Regan and Betsy Nahum-Miller of the Library of Congress’s Interpretive Programs Office started with discussion of the exhibition “Creating the United States.” Over 1,000 documents will be rotated through it by 2012, including items from the papers of George Washington, maps, cartoons, books—each on view for six months. “Creating the Declaration” explores Thomas Jefferson’s draft of that document, featuring a transcriber for clear reading, and footnoting to show where specific political ideas underlying the document originated. The Abraham Lincoln exhibition “With Malice Toward None” displays key documents of all facts of Lincoln’s career, including a scrapbook of the debates with Stephen Douglas and the Gettysburg Address. (See <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/current/>)

Elizabeth Mullin of the History of Medicine Division, National Library of Medicine, noted that their exhibits are not originated for the Web but are based on physical exhibits. The online formats reinforce the subsequent traveling versions. These formats serve their outreach goals. The exhibits are idea-based (concepts and themes) rather than document-based, have education components, and are maintained online indefinitely. Important topics include the campaign against AIDS and the varied efforts to end world hunger and disease. Some have interactive components that allow visitors to explore informational options within the exhibit. Online exhibits include “Against the Odds” and “The Literature of Prescription.” (See <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/onlineexhibitions.html>)

Joan Bacharach, senior curator with the National Park Service Museum Management Program, develops comprehensive virtual museum exhibits in collaboration with national parks. The online exhibits are place-based, with more being added over time (there are 394 “units” in the park system). The goal is to make the sites accessible—to tell the story of those places and preserve their history.

## SHFG’S E-BULLETIN

Send announcements to  
[shfg.ebulletin@gmail.com](mailto:shfg.ebulletin@gmail.com)

The bulletin is a service to SHFG members

Sites include homes, such as that of Frederick Douglass, and parks, and focus on family life, documents, natural wonders, and habitat. Park historians provide much of the content. Lesson plans for teaching with the exhibits are posted. The current 35 online exhibits are arranged thematically under such titles as American West and American Visionaries. (See [www.nps.gov/history/museum](http://www.nps.gov/history/museum))

### **CONCURRENT SESSION 3A: CRYPTOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS: SECURING U.S. GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS**

*Chair: Nathan Ensmenger, Department of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania*

The U.S. government has long relied on cryptology, according to panelists Betsy Rohaly Smoot, Senior Historian, Center for Cryptologic History, National Security Agency, and James David, Curator, Space History Division, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Smoot's paper introduces Genevieve Young Hitt, an amateur code breaker with the United States Army during the First World War. Hitt came to code-breaking through her marriage to an Army officer, and she proved adept at code-breaking. She was soon helping break coded messages about the Mexican Revolution. When the U.S. entered the World War in 1917, Hitt stepped into what she called ". . . a man's size job," taking on code-breaking work for the Army on an ad hoc basis. She was eventually offered a paid position and came to lead a team of code-breakers. With the end of the war, Hitt largely returned to domestic life. Smoot's paper addressed several issues including the role of women in the intelligence world, the history of American cryptography, and the recognition of important work by actors previously lost to history.

David took a different approach, addressing an historiographical issue involving classification policy. To this end, David described his investigations into codeword information control systems and their meanings. David's presentation showed how he has come to understand several key Cold War systems set up to protect communications intelligence and the products and technologies of strategic reconnaissance aircraft and satellites. He also showed how codewords found in today's declassified documents fit under these systems, and what they may indicate about the source of the intelligence contained therein. David's paper is both a summary of his work and a précis of areas that he intends to pursue into the future.

Due to scheduling difficulties neither the third presenter nor the commentator could be present for the panel.

### **CONCURRENT SESSION 3B: SOCIAL SECURITY: ECONOMIC CRISIS AND POLICY DEBATES IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

*Chair: Franklin Noll, Noll Historical Consulting*

This session provided an overview of the past, present, and future of Social Security in the United States. Chaired by Franklin Noll, the panel consisted of two historians from the U.S. Social Security Administration: Richard Gabryzewski and Larry DeWitt.

Gabryzewski's paper, "The Decades Before Social Security," was a survey of measures taken in the past to deal with the poor and aged, leading up to the passage of Social Security legislation. Starting with ancient Rome and medieval Britain, he covered how ideas developed about the poor and how to treat them. By the founding of the United States, the treatment of the poor and aged was institutionalized in the form of workhouses and almshouses. In the nineteenth century, while European states were establishing old-age insurance plans, little progress was made in the United States. It was only with the onset of the Great Depression and the radicalization of political debate that the idea of state-sponsored social insurance gained traction. Huey Long, Father Coughlin, Upton Sinclair, and others laid the groundwork for the passage of Social Security as part of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal.

In his paper, "The Social Security Trust Funds in Historical Perspective: Understanding Current Policy Debates," DeWitt discussed the funding structure of Social Security, from the program's inception to the present. While Social Security was originally designed to be funded solely from current receipts, the trust fund was created in 1939 to deal with program income in excess of immediate payment needs. Over time, the Social Security Trust Fund has grown to \$2.6 trillion dollars and takes the form of Treasury securities that can be cashed in as needed. DeWitt went on to dispel various myths that have grown up around the validity and soundness of the trust fund. He added that while there is no immediate problem with funding Social Security, the trust fund will be used up in the 2030s and it would be better to make changes now rather than in a crisis environment later.

### **CONCURRENT SESSION 3C: NARRATING CHANGE: ORAL HISTORY AND NEW PERSPECTIVES IN FEDERAL HISTORY**

*Chair: Lu Ann Jones, National Park Service*

The panelists members presented vivid examples of oral history interviews with unheralded staff members and service veterans that have broadened perspectives on institutions and events as well documented as the U. S. Congress and World War II.





*Jeffrey Charlston discusses the Cold War in Space.*

*Annual Conference continued from page 11*

Albin J. Kowalewski, Office of the Historian, U.S. House of Representatives, noted that oral histories with congressional staffers can change our understanding of the legislative process and the history of the House itself. “Members may vote,” he observed, “but staffers wield much of the intellectual power behind formal policy decisions.” Kowalewski shared audio excerpts from interviews with Tina Tate, the first woman director of the House Radio-TV gallery in 1972; Arva Marie Johnson, the first black woman to join the U.S. Capitol Police Force in 1974; Donn Anderson, former Clerk who started at the House in 1960; and other staff members.

Katherine Scott, Assistant Historian, U.S. Senate Historical Office, focused on how her office has used oral history to record behind-the-scenes accounts of major events such as impeachment trials. For example, four years after the Senate planned for the impeachment of President Nixon, the Senate Parliamentarian, Dr. Floyd Riddick, shared his memories of those preparations. “The Riddick interview,” observed Scott, “reads like a Senate procedural manual for presidential impeachment preparations.” It proved invaluable in 1998 when the Senate anticipated the impeachment trial of President Clinton, which Senate historians in turn documented with “debriefing” interviews with key participants.

Tom Wiener, research specialist with the Veterans History Project, Library of Congress, illustrated the value of its vast collection of oral histories by highlighting a compelling interview with Norman Ikari, a member of the all-

Japanese American unit, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Interviewed in 2003 at the age of 84, Ikari described how family members were scattered among various relocation camps, how he was wounded in action during service in Europe, and how he was offered a humiliating military intelligence assignment while he was recovering stateside.

**CONCURRENT SESSION 3D: WAGING THE COLD WAR IN SPACE**

*Chair: Bill Barry, National Aeronautics and Space Administration*

This session explored select aspects of the Cold War in space. Jeffrey Charlston of the National Reconnaissance Office discussed what we know about intelligence satellites after 15 years of declassification. Satellite research started in 1954 with a Rand study, and soon the 117L defense program was started to build reconnaissance satellites. In 1957–63 the Sentry/SAMOS Program was underway to produce imaging payloads. The 1950s Midas program was designed to detect nuclear launches, and the Navy was the first in space with a satellite in June 1960. Only two-fifths of these early launches were successful. Other goals included lunar mapping, photography from space, radar imaging, and weather forecasting. The KH-7 imaging system could yield high-resolution images of 2 feet. NRO ground operations remain classified.

Ashok D. Maharaj, National Air and Space Museum, discussed India’s space program. At the 1954 Bandung conference, India found itself representing the aspirations

*Continued on page 14*

*William Leeman  
accepts Pendleton  
Prize from Kier  
Sterling*



## SHFG ANNOUNCES PRIZES AT ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

Awards Committee Chair Suzanne Junod presided over the presentation of the Society's prizes at the Annual Awards Luncheon, during the SHFG Conference at Archives II. The following prizes were awarded:

### HENRY ADAMS PRIZE

**Susan Dunn, Professor, Williams College:**

*Roosevelt's Purge: How FDR Fought to Change the Democratic Party* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010).

### GEORGE PENDLETON PRIZE

**William P. Leeman, Assistant Professor of History, West Point:** *The Long Road to Annapolis: The Founding of the Naval Academy and the Emerging American Republic* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010).

### JAMES MADISON PRIZE

**Eric S. Yellin, Assistant Professor of History, University of Richmond,** "It Was Still No South to Us": *African American Civil Servants at the Fin de Siecle,* *Washington History: The Journal of the Historical Society of Washington, DC.*

### THOMAS JEFFERSON PRIZE

**John M. Carland, editor, Foreign Relations of the United States, 1969-1976, Volume VIII: Vietnam, January-October 1972 (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2010).**

### JOHN WESLEY POWELL PRIZE

"Cargo is King" exhibit, **San Francisco Maritime Museum, National Park Service, San Francisco, CA** (Richard Everett).

"Lost on the Reef" exhibit, **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument's Mokuapapapa Discovery Center, Hilo, Hawaii;** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (James Delgado, Daniel Basta, and Kelly Gleason).

### ROGER R. TRASK AWARD

**Philip L. Cantelon, Chairman, History Associates Inc.**

### MARYELLEN TRAUTMAN AWARD

**Benjamin Guterman, Editor, National Archives and Records Administration**

Neither the Charles Thompson Prize nor the Franklin D. Roosevelt Award were bestowed in 2011, but nominees for those honors will be considered in 2012.



*Larry DeWitt (right)  
presents Madison Prize to  
Eric S. Yellin.*



*John Carland (left) receives Jefferson  
Prize from Richa Wilson*

*Richard Everett, recipient of  
Powell Prize for "Cargo is King"  
exhibit.*



*James Delgado (left) and Daniel Basta  
(center) receive Powell Prize for "Lost on  
the Reef" exhibit, from Suzanne Junod.*



*Benjamin Guterman receives Mary Ellen  
Trautman Award from Ms. Trautman*

*Annual Conference continued from page 12*

of Third World nations. The U.S. aided Indian leadership in part by training Indian scientists—including space engineers—at American facilities, and also by sending scientists to India to assist with construction of their rocket program, and were especially keen to boost Indian capability after the 1964 Chinese Communist nuclear test. Indians sought satellites to spread educational programs to the masses. With the India-Pakistan War in 1971, the U.S. reduced its scientific aid, but not entirely. The Indians improved on a Soviet space capsule design, and now have ICBMs. Thus, India has sought a space program both for prestige and defense purposes.

Douglas Jerolimov, University of Virginia, discussed changes in NASA's Mission Control over time. In response to Sputnik, Mission Control became the hub during the Gemini program. The Mercury program demonstrated the need for an integrated Mission Control Center to bring all ground and communication functions together. With Skylab, the control structure changed to accommodate new, diverse centers, decentralizing decision making and even involving other governments. During flights the Shuttle monitors many functions. The Marshall Space Center supports Spacelab. And the International Space Station is monitored by several partner nations. Today, control centers are noted in the "Flight Rules." Mission Control changes show the rise and transformation of the technological system.

### CONCURRENT SESSION 3E: MILITARY INNOVATIONS IN THE 20TH CENTURY

*Chair: Erin Mahan, Office of the Secretary of Defense*

Bill Williams, from the Center of Cryptologic History at the National Security Agency, presented a paper on the mobilization of the shipbuilding industry in the United States during World War I. He argued that the U.S. created an incredibly large and efficient infrastructure for producing merchant tonnage during the 18 months the nation was

at war. Although the number of ships built was not overwhelming, the "know-how" American industry developed provided valuable lessons and precedents for the mobilization of the shipbuilding industry during World War II. Greg Ball, from the Air Force History and Museum Program, examined the 142d Infantry Regiment during World War I. His paper demonstrated that adaptation and innovation in the American Expeditionary Forces was spurred by officers at lower levels of command rather than by General John J. Pershing and his staff. The paper explored the 142d's changes in planning, preparation, and tactics over the course of two battles, as well as the regiment's innovative use of Native American soldiers to pass messages to front line troops.

The presentation by Ph.D. candidate Earl Catagnus from Temple University looked at the interwar U.S. Army and argued that the tenets of victory during World War II—innovation and adaptation—were cultivated and institutionalized within the Army's professional officer corps between the two world wars. Contrary to most interwar historiography, he demonstrated there was considerable development of the infantry in terms of military intellectualism, organization, and doctrine during this period.

Dr. Tom Lassman, from the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, showed how cost growth and schedule delays tied directly to technological difficulties, and contract rigidity prompted the Army to cancel the AH-56 Cheyenne attack helicopter in 1972 in favor of a cheaper and less technologically sophisticated alternative, the AH-64 Apache. At the same time, OSD had reformed the weapons acquisition process to avoid the systemic problems that had undermined the development of the Cheyenne. The Apache program, however, experienced the same types of technological instability, cost growth, and schedule delays, all of which transcended the structural reforms put in place by OSD earlier in the decade.

## SHFG DIRECTORY

SHFG is compiling the Directory of Federal Historical Programs online. Visit <http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/directory-of-history-offices/> to complete and submit a directory form. Send form to [Kate\\_Scott@sec.senate.gov](mailto:Kate_Scott@sec.senate.gov)

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Federal History journal

Federal History, the online journal of the Society for History in the Federal Government, seeks articles for its 2012 issue. Federal History features scholarship on the history of the federal government, including military history, 1776–present. We welcome manuscripts from federal historians and others working in the federal government, as well as independent scholars and historians working in public history and academia. See <http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/federal-history-journal/> for current issue, past issues, and details on submissions, which should be sent to [editor-shfg-journal@shfg.org](mailto:editor-shfg-journal@shfg.org).



## FEDERAL HISTORY OFFICE PROFILE

The Federalist will profile a different history office in each issue.  
Please direct texts, comments, and inquiries to editor Joan Zenzen at joanz10@verizon.net.

### MAKING HISTORY RELEVANT FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY (NSA)

By William J. Williams

What value does a history office bring to a government agency? Sherman Kent, a history professor from Yale who played a major role in the development of the Central Intelligence Agency, stated in 1952 that “the only reason for reconstructing the history of a government agency is to further the operational efficiency of that agency. This cannot be history for history’s sake. It must be history for the improvement of today’s and tomorrow’s operations.”

NSA’s Center for Cryptologic History (CCH) takes Kent’s view seriously, as reflected in our two-part mission statement to support the National Security Agency/Central Security Service (CSS)—which provides support to the cryptologic components of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Our mission statement directs CCH to:

*provide objective, meaningful historical support to the National Security Agency/Central Security Service leadership and workforce to enhance decision making, cryptologic knowledge, and esprit de corps; and advance an understanding of cryptologic history for the United States Intelligence Community, the Department of Defense, other government agencies, academia, and the general public.*

To achieve these goals a “culture for history” needs to be created—within the workforce and through all levels of management—in which there is an awareness of the agency’s history and an appreciation for the value of a historical perspective.

A powerful way to increase the visibility of history and develop this culture is to take advantage of the computer. NSA/CSS has an internal computer network that ties together all the agency personnel working at Fort Meade—as well as those assigned to “field sites” away from the Baltimore/Washington, DC, area. The first thing an agency employee is likely to do upon arrival is to log onto “NSA Net.” The web page that comes up includes a regular feature called “History Today.”



Entrance of the National Security Agency’s Center for Cryptologic History

“History Today” provides a different historical vignette every workday that relates to cryptology. The popularity of this feature among NSA/CSS employees has been nothing short of astounding. Many employees report it’s the first thing they read every morning. Several senior executives have told me that when they’re out of the office, they make it a point to catch up on the missed “History Today” articles. “Hot links” at the bottom of the feature—suggesting related CCH publications and products—

always get some (and sometimes many hundreds of) “hits.” Almost every day, employees send CCH questions or comments about “History Today.”

Another important initiative has been to start the orientation program for every newly hired employee at the National Cryptologic Museum. In the past, new employees would start with a blizzard of paperwork as their first impression of the agency. Now the “new hires” first day begins at the museum, where they are welcomed by a senior executive, given the oath of office, and then sent off for a guided tour of the museum.

The message emphasized in the tour is that their cryptologic predecessors “changed the history of the world.” Some are skeptical about this bold claim at first, but when they see how cryptologists during World War II brilliantly solved the ciphers and codes used by the Germans and Japanese—and how the intelligence derived from those sources helped defeat the Axis powers—they can appreciate the importance of the work they’re about to begin. Critique forms filled out by the “new hires,” in which they share their impressions about the museum tour, are overwhelmingly enthusiastic and positive.

Our hope is that the exposure provided by products such as “History Today” and the museum orientation for “new hires” will help create a “culture of history” throughout the agency. We additionally use historical posters as part of a “History in the Hallways” project, a cryptologic history course, and a user-friendly CCH web site on the internal network. We also work to get NSA/CSS leaders—at all levels—to appreciate the value of a historical perspective.

At NSA/CSS, most leadership training focuses on the behavioral science approach that asks: What behavioral skills does a leader need? There's also, however, a growing recognition that history can provide a useful complement to this leadership training. For example, each year CCH leads several trips to the Antietam battlefield in Western Maryland on what the Army calls a "staff ride." There the participants, primarily senior-level supervisors, learn how intelligence—both very good and very bad—played a central role in shaping the way General McClellan maneuvered the Army of the Potomac in September 1862. NSA/CSS leaders report, often with surprising enthusiasm, that this staff ride helped them gain valuable insights into issues that still challenge intelligence professionals and commanders today.

Working with NSA's National Cryptologic School (NCS), CCH has also introduced history presentations into numerous NCS courses. These include lectures (e.g., on intelligence successes and blunders in history), case studies (such as intelligence challenges at Pearl Harbor in 1941 and the Gulf of Tonkin in 1964), museum tours, classroom interviews with former NSA/CSS leaders, and special history presentations for the workforce (e.g., how intelligence is portrayed in Hollywood movies and what really happened—a presentation we call "Reel vs. Real"). Those participating find these opportunities useful learning experiences, as demonstrated by their consistently positive feedback on critique forms.

Our ultimate goal is to have agency personnel, as they plan and conduct operations, take advantage of CCH's historical support. We believe an understanding of the past provides decision-makers insights that can improve the quality of their decisions. Raising an awareness of history is obviously important, but to be successful it's absolutely critical that CCH produce quality historical products.

The foundation of what we do is our publication program. We've produced numerous monographs, articles, and brochures on cryptologic history at both the classified and unclassified levels, many of which have won the NSA/CSS "Cryptologic Literature Award." Our unclassified monographs have received favorable reviews in scholarly journals as well as in the media (including the *New York Times*). All of these publications are available in hard-copy formats as well as online—on "NSA Net" at the classified level and on the Internet (at [www.nsa.gov](http://www.nsa.gov)) for our unclassified publications. Recently we've also inserted dozens of our unclassified monographs into the Safari on-demand digital library.

We have important audiences for CCH products outside of the agency. We work on cooperative history projects with other Intelligence Community and Department of Defense organizations, but also reach out to academia and the general public. For example, our historians have given guest lectures at universities, war colleges, Presidential libraries, public schools, and community centers. CCH also sponsors

events open to the general public that regularly draw large crowds, including a biennial cryptologic history symposium (next scheduled for 6–7 October 2011) and the Henry F. Schorreck Memorial Lecture, presented each spring by a renowned intelligence historian. The agency's best-known outreach activity is the National Cryptologic Museum, operated by the NSA/CSS public affairs office with historical assistance from CCH. This outstanding facility annually draws more than 50,000 visitors.

Does NSA/CSS get a return on its investment in this history program? Unfortunately, there are no easily available statistics to use. The true measure of success will be how effectively NSA/CSS accomplishes its mission—and whether the experience of the past helps the agency conduct its operations. The Center for Cryptologic History is taking steps to make the history program more visible and relevant at NSA/CSS, but this is very much a work in progress. What's encouraging is that no one has told us to stop (or significantly cut back) what we're doing—and we're often asked to provide additional historical products and services. That trend suggests we're moving in the right direction.

*William J. Williams is Chief Historian at the Center for Cryptologic History, National Security Agency.*

**CENTER FOR CRYPTOLOGIC HISTORY,  
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY**

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**Chief Historian:** Dr. William J. Williams

**Staff positions:** Staff: 6 Historians, 1 Oral Historian,  
2 Editors, 1 Office Manager, 1 Special Assistant

**Summary of Office Activities and Responsibilities:** The Center for Cryptologic History provides objective, meaningful historical support to the National Security Agency/Central Security Service leadership and work force to enhance decision making, cryptologic knowledge, and esprit de corps; and advances an understanding of cryptologic history for the United States Intelligence Community, the Department of Defense, other government agencies, academia, and the general public.

**Recent Publication(s) or web pages:**

*West Wind Clear: Cryptology and the Winds Message Controversy*  
*American Signal Intelligence in Northwest Africa and Western Europe*

*Silent Warriors: The Naval Security Group Reserve 1945–2005*  
*Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) at NSA*

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## DIGITAL HISTORY NOTES

### REVIEWS IN BRIEF OF INNOVATIVE ONLINE RESOURCES

**National Archives “Digital Vaults”:** A dynamic visual database for researching images from NARA’s holdings. Selection of any image jumbles and assembles a new collection of related visual records.

<http://www.digitalvaults.org/>

**Library of Congress, Lincoln, “With Malice Toward None” Interactive:** With focus on President-elect Lincoln’s trip to Washington by rail, Feb. 11–23, 1861, this interactive is effective in allowing a close reading of numerous contemporary newspaper accounts and drawings for colorful and in-depth documentation of his journey. Ideal for researchers.

<http://myloc.gov/Exhibitions/lincoln/Pages/Default.aspx>

**National Library of Medicine, “Against the Odds” Exhibit:** Within this general exhibit, the “Food for Life” component explores agricultural and health problems in Brazil with in-depth review of the plight of small farmers and landless workers, and school collectives and health promotion. Features audio tour, numerous photographs, and differing perspectives on controversial issues.

<http://apps.nlm.nih.gov/againsttheodds/exhibit/index.cfm>

**Army Center of Military History, The Civil War Sesquicentennial:** The Center’s new web site dedicated to the sesquicentennial provides valuable resources with a timeline, published material, original letters, and maps. Civil

War art from the extensive Army Art Collection is a useful resource, including works from Thomas Nast, Alonzo Chappel, and others. Also useful are links to other organizations and events commemorating the sesquicentennial.

[http://www.history.army.mil/files/commemorations/civil\\_war/index.html](http://www.history.army.mil/files/commemorations/civil_war/index.html)

**OAH The Journal of American History, “Interchange: The Promise of Digital History” (Sept. 2008):** This valuable discussion offers insights into important digital history issues such as training, technological tools, collaboration, goals, and the unique contributions of on-line historical work. William G. Thomas III, University of Nebraska, for example, states: “The reader can immerse him/herself in the past, surrounded with the evidence, and make new associations. The goal of digital history might be to build environments that pull readers in less by the force of a linear argument than by the experience of total immersion and the curiosity to build connections.” Kirsten Sword, Indiana University, states: “Digital resources are expanding and redefining the archival base for most fields and thereby redefining the fields themselves.”

<http://www.journalofamericanhistory.org/issues/952/interchange/index.html>

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Screen shot from NARA’s “Digital Vaults” visual database.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES OUR PAST PRESIDENTS

By Charles Downs

During the presentation of the “Past President’s” pin at the 2011 annual meeting in March, all former SHFG presidents in attendance posed for a group portrait (*see page 5*). As far as I know, this was the first time such a group photograph of SHFG presidents was taken at an annual meeting. However, several such photographs have been taken over the years at the SHFG Holiday Party, originally known as the “President’s Reception,” which traditionally takes place in the Archivist’s Reception Room in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

The first group photograph was a snapshot taken at the 1988 reception. While it is not especially sharp, all of the Society’s first presidents appear in it, and it included those involved in founding of the Society. Left to right are David Allison, Wayne Rasmussen, Richard Baker, David Trask, and Jack Holl, the SHFG’s first president.



The next group photograph was more formal, taken at the 1990 reception. Six of seven of the Society’s first presidents appear, as well of the then current president, Roger Trask, lacking only Jack Holl. From left to right are Roger Trask, David Allison, Richard Baker, David Trask, Martin Reuss, William Dudley, and Wayne Rasmussen.



Additional group photos were taken in 1996, 1998, and 1999. Remarkably, there is one individual that appears in all these photos, as well as the one taken at this year’s conference. He is Richard Baker, the Society’s fourth president. This is quite a testament to his service to and support of the SHFG. A longer version of this article appears with additional images at <http://shfg.org/shfg/about/current-officers/>

For more information on the SHFG archives, write to [chasdowns@verizon.net](mailto:chasdowns@verizon.net).

## MAKING HISTORY

### AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

AHA Executive Director Jim Grossman reviewed the recent film, *The Conspirator*, and considered how it can be a vehicle for teaching and for public conversation on the Civil War. A discussion took place on the AHA blog on April 13: see <http://blog.historians.org/executive-director/1311/historians-and-the-conspirator-using-film-to-ask-big-questions>.

The AHA held a reception at AHA headquarters (400 A St. SE) on Tuesday, June 7, 2011, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. This gathering was an opportunity to mingle with colleagues doing research through local institutions and facilities in the Washington, D.C. area.

The April 2011 issue of the *American Historical Review* explores “The Senses in History,” while the April 2011 issue of *Perspectives on History* includes articles on teaching with technology, getting published, news from Washington, and more.

On March 27, 2011, the American Historical Association released a statement “deploring recent efforts by the deputy executive director of the Wisconsin Republican Party to intimidate William Cronon” by issuing an Open Records Law request for his University of Wisconsin-Madison e-mails following a post on his *Scholar as Citizen* blog. Since then the University of Wisconsin-Madison announced they would release William Cronon’s e-mails but withhold those said to be private. The university reviewed Cronon’s records for any legal or policy violations, including improper uses of state or university resources for partisan political activity, and concluded that “his conduct, as evidenced in the e-mails, beyond reproach in every respect.”

### HISTORY ASSOCIATES INCORPORATED

History Associates has collaborated with the Civil War Trust to create a series of iPhone “Battle Apps”—mobile battlefield tours that take advantage of GPS technology to guide visitors through Civil War battlefields. Available Battle Apps include Devil’s Den and Little Round Top regions of Gettysburg, as well as the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg. Battle Apps for other popular battlefields are planned.

On March 31, 2011, History Associates co-founder and CEO Philip L. Cantelon presented the keynote address “Crisis and Change: In the Company of Clio” at the Society for History in the Federal Government’s Annual Meeting, held at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland. Dr. Cantelon discussed how crisis points throughout history demanded adaptation and change, and how historians must embrace and adapt to change as well. He presented the keynote address as part of acceptance of the 2011 Roger R. Trask Award, which honors historians whose work reflects the unique importance of federal history and the mission of the Society. Dr. Cantelon’s keynote address will be published in an upcoming issue of *Federal History*, the Society’s on-line journal and is on YouTube.

History Associates commemorated its 30th anniversary with an invitation-only gala at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, April 16. Nearly two hundred guests including former and current employees, friends, and clients gathered to celebrate. A brief program featured welcoming remarks from the Archivist of the United States, David S. Ferriero. The program also included remarks by CEO and co-founder Dr. Philip L. Cantelon and president and COO Brian W. Martin, a slide show of staff throughout the years, and a six-minute video commemorating the firm’s success as a history company. Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed refreshments and hors d’oeuvres in the Rotunda Galleries and were free to explore the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom, the Public Vaults, and the “Discovering the Civil War” exhibition in the Lawrence F. O’Brien Gallery.

For more information about History Associates, call (301) 279-9697 or visit [www.historyassociates.com](http://www.historyassociates.com).

### MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

The Marine Corps University Press has published *Afghanistan, Alone and Unafraid*, by Col. David A. Benhoff. (The title of this book was reported incorrectly in the Winter 2011 edition of *The Federalist*).

### NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

Work continues on the creation of a replacement monument for the heavily eroded 32nd Indiana Infantry Monument, informally known as the “Bloedner Monument,” which is currently on display at the Frazier International History Museum in Louisville, Kentucky. It was carved in the first weeks of 1862 to memorialize 13 casualties of the Battle of Rowlett’s Station in Munfordville, about 70 miles south of Louisville. The 32nd Indiana Infantry Regiment was entirely comprised of German-Americans.

The new monument is underway by noted carver Nicholas Benson of the John Stevens Shop of Newport, Rhode Island. It

features the original German inscription on the front, and, unlike the original, an English translation on the back. Benson, who carved lettering on the National World War II Memorial and is working on the forthcoming MLK Memorial, was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2010. More information can be found at [www.cem.va.gov/hist\\_histhome.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/hist_histhome.asp).

### NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Curator Jeffrey Stine received the 2011 Distinguished Service Award for career-long contributions to the American Society for Environmental History.

### NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY – CENTER FOR CRYPTOLOGIC HISTORY

The Center for Cryptologic History sponsors the Cryptologic History Symposium every two years. The next one will be held October 6-7, 2011, at the Kossiakoff Center of the John Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland. The theme for the upcoming conference will be: “Cryptology in War and Peace: Crisis Points in History.” For more information on this conference, contact Dr. Kent Sieg, the Center’s Symposium’s Executive Director, at [kgsieg@nsa.gov](mailto:kgsieg@nsa.gov), or visit [www.nsa.gov](http://www.nsa.gov).

### TREASURY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

In May the THA’s recently published book, *Fortress of Finance: The United States Treasury Building*, received a Silver Medallion in the Independent Book Publishers Awards. More on the book can be found at: [www.treasuryhistoricalassn.org/newsletters/Advertisement7P.pdf](http://www.treasuryhistoricalassn.org/newsletters/Advertisement7P.pdf).

The THA’s noontime lecture series also continued with former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker sharing reminiscences of the Treasury at the Association’s annual meeting in December 2010. In March, Franklin Noll gave a history of the Treasury seal that is found on all U.S. currency. Touching on the Civil War, Margaret Richardson gave a talk entitled, *Dancing the “Legal Tender Polka”—Public Reaction to Treasury Innovations during the Civil War*, in April. The next lecture in the series will occur in late June when Robert Folsom discusses his book, *The Money Trail: How Elmer Irey and His T-Men Brought Down America’s Criminal Elite*. This is an account of the exploits of the Treasury Department’s Special Intelligence Unit during the interwar years.

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## FEDERALIST CALENDAR

**August 22–27, 2011. Society of American Archivists (SAA) Annual Conference, “Archives 360,”** Chicago, IL. Visit <http://www.archivists.org/conference/>

**September 1–4, 2011. American Political Science Association (APSA) Meeting, “The Politics of Rights,”** Seattle, WA. Visit <http://www.apsanet.org/content>

**October 6–7, 2011. Center for Cryptologic History, Biennial Cryptologic History Symposium, “Cryptology in War and Peace: Crisis Points in History,”** Laurel, MD. Visit <http://nsa.gov>

**October 12–16, 2011. Oral History Association (OHA) Annual Meeting,** Denver, CO. Visit <http://oralhistory.org/annual.meeting>

**October 13–16, 2011. Western Historical Association (WHA) Meeting, “Modern Histories of Ancient Places,”** Oakland, CA. Visit <http://www.westernhistoryassociation.org/conference/>

**October 27–30, 2011. Southern Historical Association (SHA) Meeting,** Baltimore, MD. Visit <http://www.uga.edu/sha/meeting/index.htm>

**November 3–6, 2011. The Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting,** Cleveland, OH. Visit <http://www.historyoftechnology.org/shot2011dfp.html>

**January 5–8, 2012. American Historical Association Annual Meeting, “Communities and Networks,”** Chicago, IL. Visit <http://www.historians.org/annual/proposals.htm>