

## SHFG–OHMAR CONFERENCE 2013 HIGHLIGHTS DIGITAL HISTORY

SHFG’s annual conference in conjunction with Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) on April 4–5 was one of the more successful meetings in recent years. Over 140 persons attended the 1½-day program at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland, which included the Roger R. Trask Lecture, sessions, awards ceremonies, a luncheon, an evening reception, and a business meeting.

As hoped, the combined membership and their specialties created an expanded and exciting program of research topics for members of both organizations, as well as a chance to meet new professionals from across government and private institutions. Presenters came from far afield, including Brazil, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Rutgers University, University of



*Student panel from Kean University on oral history work following Hurricane Sandy*

Mary Washington, George Mason University, LaSalle University, numerous federal agencies, and private archives and libraries.

The sessions highlighted some critical issues in public history as well as important historical questions on topics ranging from military and economic history to the latest techniques in digitization projects and oral history documentation.

*See “Conference” cont’d on page 4*

This year’s conference benefited from our partnership with OHMAR. The memberships overlapped enough to make it twice as useful to many attendees. New faces provided great opportunities to network outside of the usual circles. Panels were high quality with good variety.

— Laura O’Hara, U.S. House Office of History

### PETE DANIEL RECEIVES THE ROGER R. TRASK AWARD

The Society awarded its fifth annual Roger R. Trask Award to Pete Daniel on April 4, 2013, with over 140 in attendance.



SHFG recognized Dr. Daniel’s service as a federal historian and Smithsonian Institution curator, a past president of both the OAH and SHFG, and as an exceptional advocate for the value of federal historical work.

In his incisive and direct style, Pete Daniel discussed some of the major curatorial and research efforts of his career, stating that “one way or another they all circled back to my search for historical understanding.” But in reality, his work did not always stop there. His career demonstrates a more active role, one of “causes,” in which the historian fights to preserve the integrity of his research and findings,

*See “Trask Award” cont’d on page 5*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Marc Rothenberg

This issue of *The Federalist* essentially marks the end of my year as president. It has been an extremely productive year, although credit should not go to me, but to the SHFG officers and many Society members who committed their time and energy to make this Society work. We have just experienced a wonderful annual conference, details of which can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and on the SHFG website. Meeting jointly with the Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region over a two-day span raised many complex organizational and programmatic issues, but these were all solved by Vice President David McMillen, working closely with the OHMAR representatives to the joint conference committee, Kathleen Johnson and Kate Scott. My thanks go to David, Kathleen, and Kate, as well as Awards Coordinator Suzanne Junod, all the members of the award committees, Treasurer Anne Musella, and SHFG photographer Charles Downs, who all contributed immensely to the success of the conference.

Other highlights of my tenure was the inaugural of the SHFG professional workshops, conceived of and brought to fruition by Past President Matt Wasniewski; the holiday reception, coordinated by Carl Ashley; and the Hewlett Lecture panel discussion and dinner, organized by David McMillen.

I also benefited from the sage advice and hard work of the other officers and committee members: Sejal Patel,

Eric Boyle, Margo Anderson, Sara Berndt, LuAnn Jones, Jessie Kratz, Terrance Rucker, and Laura O' Hara. Special recognition goes to Benjamin Guterman. Not only did he serve the Society as publications coordinator and webmaster, but he stepped in at a crucial time to serve as Acting Treasurer, keeping our finances in order. Thank you all for making my year as president so rewarding.

Having looked back at my year as president, I would now like to look forward. It is my immense privilege to formally announce the start of a Legacy Circle for the Society for the History in the Federal Government. Judson MacLaury, a long-time and very active member of SHFG, has placed the Society in his will, to "help assure the long-term welfare and survival of the Society," with special emphasis on the Society's publication program. I want to further quote Judson's letter to me because it sums up so well the role of our Society: "Also for over three decades, our wonderful organization has played an essential role in supporting both the documentation of that [federal] history and the provision of a wide range of federal historical activities and services. It has also provided incalculable professional and moral support to federal historical workers." Please join me both in thanking Judson for his bequest, and in considering joining him to ensure the long-term welfare and survival of our organization. For further information about leaving a legacy to SHFG, please contact me or David McMillen.

It's been an honor and privilege to serve as SHFG president, and I plan to assist David in whatever way I can. I look forward to seeing you at future Society events.

Marc Rothenberg  
SHFG President, 2012–13

### **THE FEDERALIST** (ISSN 0736-8151)

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Issues one-year-old and older (Second Series) are available, along with an index to articles, on the Society's web site at [www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org).

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of *The Federalist*, the SHFG, or the agencies or organizations where the authors are employed.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue highlights our successful joint conference with OHMAR on April 4–5. Presenters and attendees were enthusiastic, and the meeting offered an exciting blend of conversations on both historical work and explorations of digital and oral history work. Presenters offered new insights into such topics as the 1950s Military-Industrial Complex, the invention of radar, FBI work, war debt and politics after the Civil War, and more. Other sessions brought us up-to-date on national and international explorations in digital and oral history work—cataloguing, indexing, digitization, online exhibits, and oral history archives. But new technical and professional questions arise as well. Here are just a few: how do we properly absorb cross-cultural testimonies, maintain museum standards in attempts at co-curation with outside groups, use technology to collate metadata and index it to maximum advantage, incorporate social media while filtering for historical balance and accuracy, and reevaluate unforeseen copyright issues? The sessions collectively emphasized that we must continually reevaluate how digital and oral

history advances impact professional standards and possibly even force us to redefine them.

In our articles, Lesley Parilla introduces us to the Smithsonian Institution's collection of field books that is now being fully digitized for online research. Kelly Spradley-Kurowski discusses the National Park Service's initiative to improve the documentation and nomination of new properties within parks for preservation—an important effort toward greater efficiency. Historian Nicholas Schlosser takes us behind the scenes into the work of the Marine Corps History Division. And, an interview with Charlene Bickford provides us with a revealing introduction to the acclaimed First Federal Congress Project. Charles Downs finds another interesting story from the SHFG Archives, and Tali Beesley reviews the innovations in timelines in digital history presentations.

Thank you for supporting the SHFG and *The Federalist*. Please send comments and materials to me at [webmaster@shfg.org](mailto:webmaster@shfg.org)

— Benjamin Guterman, editor

## SHFG-OHMAR SHOWS BENEFITS OF COLLABORATION

We realized that the joint conference was going well on the first day when we stepped to the podium to make some program announcements during lunch. The conversations in the dining room were lively, and interrupting them proved no easy task. Polite tapping on the microphone failed, at first, to quiet the din. The excited chatter in the dining room confirmed what we had long hoped: a joint SHFG-OHMAR conference just made sense. Oral historians, public historians, and federal historians have much in common. Overlapping interests, related projects, and similar concerns among the historians attending the conference, highlighted the similarities of our fields, and the benefits of collaboration. This year's joint conference provided people the opportunity to share their work, catch up with old friends, and make new acquaintances. We hope you enjoyed the conference as much as we did, and we encourage everyone to continue these lively conversations in the months and years to come.

— Kate Scott and Kathleen Johnson, OHMAR



## IN MEMORIAM WILLIAM MAURY CENSUS BUREAU

William M. Maury died April 12, 2013, in Bethesda, Maryland. He was 73. Maury served as chief historian at the Census Bureau since 2002.

Dr. Maury earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Maryland in 1963, a master's degree from the George Washington University in 1968, and a doctorate from GWU in 1975. He served as chief historian of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society while working toward his doctorate.

Earlier, he had worked as a data analyst for the Federal Aviation Administration and taught history at Catholic University and George Washington University. Maury was a longtime member and supporter of the Society for History in the Federal Government.

*Conference continued from page 1*

A few of the issues discussed included oral history work after Hurricane Sandy; maintenance of folklore and bridging the digital gap in Egypt; the scanning, transcription, indexing, and posing of a new-found diary from the Greely Expedition; the collection, transcription, online posting of 140 oral testimonies about World War II-era Sandy Hook; reasons for the loss of military unit operational records from the Gulf War due to changing records management regulations that decreased the Adjutant General's role; a massive digitization project of War of 1812 pension records that will allow more detailed and systematic understanding of pension application and payment processes in the coming decades; ways to improve access through improved indexing to the Shoah Foundation Archives database of 50,000 oral histories of Holocaust survivors; discussion of narrator-less interviews (self-interviews)—if they are oral histories, and how they must be treated and evaluated; review of military innovation in the U.S. Army during the Cold War and its meaning for review of the military-industrial complex; the advantages and negatives for ethnic museums in allowing outside groups to participate in decision-making on collections (aiming to incorporate the ethnic viewpoint); co-curation of information and archives—involving the public, as in Ancestry.com—and the copyright issues involved; use of Facebook to develop and share immigration and ethnic experiences and insights; the problem of expanding data in social media for research—issues of “unmediated voices,” lack of contextualization, and institutional standards; development of new methods for “managing the flow” of information in scanned and online museum collections, particularly with varying metadata; and the complexity and dangers of a planned oral history project in Cuba. Other sessions discussed historical work on FBI agents, the politics of Civil War debt, the Civil Rights movement, and much more. See the full program at <http://shfg.org/shfg/events/annual-meeting/past-program/>

The organizers of the conference deserve special recognition: David McMillen (SHFG), and Kathleen Johnson and Kate Scott (both of OHMAR), with assistance from Presidents Marc Rothenberg of SHFG and David Caruso of OHMAR, and numerous other individuals.



*Dominique Daniel, Heather Willever-Farr, Mustafa Jumale, Anduin Wilhide, Amalia S. Levi (not shown), panel “Knowledge Production and Dissemination in Public History”*



*Coffee break*



*James Deutsch (speaking, not shown), Thomas Lassman, Max Baumgarten, Jessie Kratz, panel “Errors of Omission and Commission”*

The joint OHMAR/SHFG conference demonstrated valuable confluences. Sessions were well attended, and the dynamics from capturing personal narratives provided fruitful ground for professional discussions. Equally important, I was delighted to see a significant injection of student papers and a budding future as the SHFG/OHMAR founding generations gracefully exit the scene.

— Fred Stielow, American Public University System

The joint conference of SHFG and OHMAR reminded me once again of the creative and innovative work being done by public historians, curators, archivists, and others in federal agencies, university class-rooms, and community organizations. The presentations and discussions were invigorating.

— Lu Ann Jones, National Park Service

SHFG's 2013 Conference at Archives II was masterfully conceived and capably executed. The theme of combining the oldest “historical” records – oral tradition – with the most modern methods of digital archiving and research stimulated not just lively discussions but also consideration of almost limitless possibilities open to historians. The “old” was made “new”!

— Billy L. Wayson, Independent Researcher



Linda Shopes (center) in a session for defining a records lifecycle framework for oral histories



Don Ritchie introduces Pamela Henson, Lesley Parilla, Kira Cherrix, and Courtney Bellizzi, Smithsonian Institution Archives

#### *Trask Award, continued from page 1*

protecting them from dilution and distortion by private sponsors, administrators, and publishers. His fascinating accounts of how his studies of peonage, agricultural reforms and allotments, toxicity, and racial discrimination developed (often using extensive oral histories) reveal his commitment to correcting the public record. Those research projects often uncovered social injustices, favoritism, inefficiencies, and even deception. His studies, he admitted, “often led to conclusions that contest notions of progress,” ones in which he has “not treated celebratory history well.”

Daniel’s approach to research is grounded in “skepticism and analysis,” and a concern for people and how they often have fared poorly at the hands of such forces as agrigovernment and agribusiness. Such concerns, he speculated, likely derived from witnessing the struggles of his own father as a small farmer in Spring Hope, North Carolina, whose tobacco acreage allotment was steadily reduced by USDA policies.

His research, he stated, often took “u-turns, hit dead-ends, [and] occasionally sped along the Interstate,” but he acknowledged the critical aid of archivists, especially at the National Archives, who led him to invaluable collections. There he searched U.S. Attorney summaries of special agent reports on involuntary servitude (peonage) in the South, building upon his dissertation, and gathering the data that shaped *The Shadow of Slavery* (1972). Earlier, a publisher had rejected his manuscript because it held that peonage continued after World War II, despite evidence to support the claims. That experience taught him to be “suspicious of book publishers and their desire to change history to sell books.”

His increasing concerns with social and demographic changes in the Southern countryside led him to explore the issues of mechanization and chemicals. He found evidence of bureaucratic irregularities in the historical record and concluded that the New Deal policies of mechanization and scientific agriculture provided subsidies that were controlled by the more successful farmers at the county level, causing poorer farmers to leave the land. Agricultural poli-

cies, he said, are often contradictory, with regulations that “hide shameless favoritism.” In his most recent work, *Dispossession*, he finds that farmers’ elections of county committee members “were flawed and undemocratic,” and that “USDA programs continue this system without apology, and at great expense.”

His museum work inspired other scholarly investigations. His contributions to the exhibit “Science in American Life” delved into pesticide toxicity, radiation sickness, and nuclear testing, in spite of reservations by the sponsor, the American Chemical Society. That research led to a later book, *Toxic Drift*, which included his investigation of the case of Charles Lawler, a cotton gin manager in Mississippi who was incapacitated by the spraying of toxic chemicals from a plane in 1956.

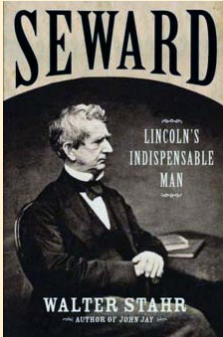
Daniel also recounted his interviews with Willie Strain and Bertha Jones of the Negro Extension Service, located at Tuskegee University, on their informational programs for African American farmers in the early 1960s. As victims of deliberate discrimination, they were “assigned offices, shunned, and given nothing to do.”

Discussing his most recent work, *Dispossession*, Daniels said that one of the most important aspects was “discovering the role of people who had not previously been recognized by historians.” Certainly his longtime use of oral histories (very appropriate for this joint meeting with OHMAR) has given voice to the unheard. In the best traditions of social history, his compassion and belief in social justice have led him to dig deep and understand the complex regional and local functions, and social and economic impacts, of our government. In his “search for historical understanding,” Pete Daniel has established a high standard for federal historians, one that also demands that, as they become expert witnesses to the past, they protect the essence of their facts and findings, and thus the integrity and independence of their profession.

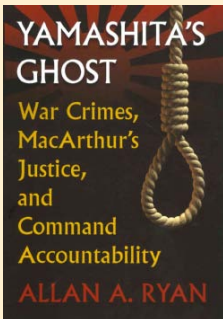
The text of Pete Daniel’s Trask Lecture will be posted on our web site at <http://shfg.org/shfg/events/trask-lecture/>, and will be printed in the January 2014 issue of *Federal History*.

— Benjamin Guterman

*Emily Terrell accepts the Pogue Award for the Archives of American Art.*



*Walter Stahr was not present.*



*Allan Ryan was not present.*



*Audra Jennings accepts the James Madison Prize.*



*Kenneth R. Bowling, Charlene Bangs Bickford, William C. DiGiacomantonio, and Helen E. Veit accept the Thomas Jefferson Prize.*



*David W. Waltrop accepts the Charles Thomson Prize.*



*Alice Kamps (right) accepts the John Wesley Powell Prize.*



*Greg Shine and Brett Oppegaard (right) accept the John Wesley Powell Prize.*

## SHFG AND OHMAR ANNOUNCE THE 2013 AWARDS

The Society for History in the Federal Government held its annual awards ceremony on April 5 at the National Archives at College Park. OHMAR also presented its Pogue Award. Congratulations to all of our 2012/2013 winners. For more information on SHFG's awards program, go to <http://shfg.org/shfg/awards/awards-requirements/>.

### POGUE AWARD

The Archives of American Art Oral History Program

### HENRY ADAMS PRIZE

Walter Stahr, *Seward: Lincoln's Indispensable Man* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2012)

### GEORGE PENDLETON PRIZE

Allan Ryan, *Yamashita's Ghost: MacArthur's Justice, and Command Accountability* (Lawrence, KS, University Press of Kansas, 2012)

### JAMES MADISON PRIZE

Audra Jennings, "'An Emblem of Distinction,' The Politics of Disability Entitlement, 1940–1950," in *Veterans' Policies, Veterans' Politics: New Perspectives on Veterans in the Modern United States*, ed. Stephen R. Ortiz. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2012, 94–116.

### CHARLES THOMSON PRIZE

David W. Waltrop, "An Underwater Ice Station Zebra: Recovering a KH-9 HEXAGON Capsule from 16,400 Feet Below the Pacific Ocean," *Quest: The History of Spaceflight Quarterly*, 19:3 (2012): 4–17.

### THOMAS JEFFERSON PRIZE

Charlene Bangs Bickford, Kenneth R. Bowling, Helen E. Veit, and William C. DiGiacomantonio, eds. *Documentary History of the First Federal Congress of the United States of America, 4 March 1789–3 March 1791, Correspondence: Second Session*, Volumes XVIII–XX. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012.

### JOHN WESLEY POWELL PRIZE

"What's Cooking, Uncle Sam? Exhibit at the National Archives" – Alice Kamps, National Archives Fort Vancouver Mobile Project (app): "Kanaka" Module – Brett Oppegaard, Washington State University Vancouver, and Greg Shine, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

See all conference images at [www://shfg.org/shfg/events/annual-meeting/2011-conference-photos/](http://www://shfg.org/shfg/events/annual-meeting/2011-conference-photos/)

Conference photos: Charles Downs

## THE DIVERSITY OF FIELD BOOKS AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

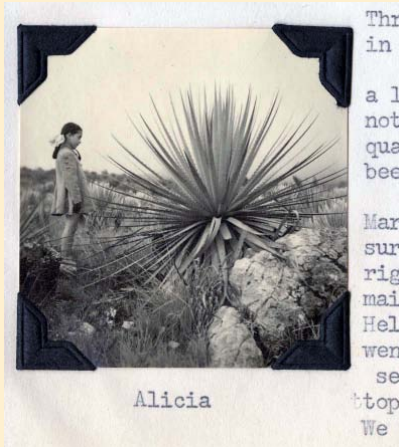
Lesley Parilla

At the joint conference for the Society for History in the Federal Government and Oral History of the Mid-Atlantic, several of my Smithsonian colleagues and I participated in the panel presentation "Panamania: Connecting Collections and Reaching New Audiences." Each presenter discussed different aspects of the Smithsonian's current efforts to catalog, digitize, and make archival materials available online to the public. My contribution is cataloging Smithsonian Institution field books. The resulting catalog records are then used as the heart of the metadata we attach to the digitized field books. Over the last few years, Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) has developed workflows for cataloging and digitization. It can be easy to get lost in the acronyms of these workflows and the technologies required to implement them. However, we at the Smithsonian are keenly aware that for all the technology, the focus is to create a digital version of an item that is discoverable and usable.

This is particularly true of the joint initiative between SIA and National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), known as the Field Book Project. In 2010, the Smithsonian received a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to locate, identify, and catalog field books documenting biodiversity, and to make the records available to the public on an online registry. In addition to this effort, SIA has begun the process of digitally imaging these field books, with the catalog records providing the necessary metadata for the digitized versions.

Anyone who has conducted online research has seen how widely information describing digitized items varies. This was among several reasons that the Project staff worked diligently to develop a cataloging structure for the field book registry to accurately describe these items. One of the greatest challenges of describing field books is that there are so many different formats.

For those who are familiar with field books, one might picture the ubiquitous specimen list or journal. However, we define a field book as any primary source that describes the events leading up to and including the collection of specimens or observations during field research. This means that photographs, videos, audio recordings, hand-drawn maps, etc. that were created in the process of col-



Portion of page from *Journal of Field Explorations* by Edward A. Chapin for the Smithsonian Institution - volume 2, Colombia, 1942 (2011-0403). Smithsonian Institution Archives. Acc 11-085, Box 1, Volume 2.

lecting are considered field books. Currently the field book registry contains over 7,000 item records.

Many of these records describe journals, specimen lists, and species accounts. These are very important types, but they are by no means the only ones. Other formats also serve as important biodiversity documentation and sometimes demonstrate surprising content. Below are just a few examples from the collections of field books that we have cataloged. Hopefully they will inspire you to take a closer look at some of the amazing variety of documentation.

### SCRAPBOOKS

Record Unit 007293 contains the field notes of William and Lucile Mann. William Mann was the Director of the National Zoological Park, and took part in several expeditions to collect live animals for the zoo. During 1937–1940, his wife, Lucile, accompanied him and documented this work in meticulously kept scrapbooks. Expeditions went to South America, Dutch East Indies, and Liberia. These scrapbooks contain news clippings detailing the well-publicized collecting trips, photographs of colleagues, live animals collected for the zoo, menus, and passenger lists from vessels.

### PHOTO ALBUMS

Record Unit 007006 holds more than 30 photo albums of ornithologist and former Smithsonian Secretary Alexander Wetmore. He was a prodigious collector, beginning in his childhood, and continuing throughout his life. These photo albums document his collecting from childhood through retirement. The images are numbered and labeled and include a wide range of subject matter: accommodations, candid images of colleagues, environment, specimens collected, and local inhabitants including members of local tribes.

### SLIDES

Record Unit has 28 sets of slides that document the collecting and travels of Waldo Schmitt, invertebrate zoologist with the U.S. National Museum. He was also a proponent of photographic documentation, and took part in many expeditions over his lifetime. These images, many in color, show his collecting in the Pacific Islands, Africa, Antarctica, Alaska, and South America, 1938–1963. These

striking images were the source of one of our first Flickr sets at <http://www.mnh.si.edu/rc/fieldbooks/flickr.html>.

### SPECIMEN LISTS

Collection Acc. 12-448 in the Department of Mammals (NMNH) contains journals and specimen lists of C. O. Handley, curator in the Division of Mammals (NMNH). Specimen lists are typically consistent in structure, and the information may seem to duplicate what can be found in NMNH's online specimen databases. But several lists found in Handley's collection demonstrate how amazingly specific information in these lists can be, information that is not consistently transferred to the specimen databases. Information of this sort is usually found in the remarks section of the original specimen lists.

### AUDIO RECORDINGS

Record Unit 007279 includes 24 dictabelt recordings that document Helmut Buechner's field work, 1959–1963. Buechner was an ecologist who came to the Smithsonian in 1965 as its first Director of the Office of Ecology. These recordings are detailed observations of kob [a type of antelope] in Kenya and Uganda. Observations are sometimes given every few minutes about the movement, behavior, and interactions of individual and groups of these animals in their habitat. These can be challenging, given that the technology is now obsolete, and the recordings are fragile. Luckily he had transcriptions typed, and we were able to use these to catalog the recordings.

### MAPS

Acc. 13-025 contains a unique set of maps documenting the forest of Barro Colorado, site of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. There are 52 folders, each containing between 24 and 30 maps that document the locations of individual trees, fallen logs, outcrops of rock, water features, and lianas, 1980–1983. One has only to look at these maps to be amazed at the patience required to create them.

### LOG BOOKS

Record Unit 007184 comprises 211 logbooks covering the voyages of the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries vessel *Albatross*, 1885–1920. They include important environmental details about weather, ocean currents, and temperatures, as well as collecting information. Log books like these are currently being transcribed through online projects like Zooniverse's "Old Weather."



*Drawing of Cyprinoid observed near Fort Vancouver in 1841, drawn by Joseph Drayton for the United States Exploring Expedition, 1838–1842 (SIA2011-1233). Smithsonian Institution Archives RU 007186, Box 5, Folder 14.*

### CORRESPONDENCE

Record Unit 000229 holds the correspondence of USDA agrozoologist Mary Agnes Chase. She made several collecting trips to South America during the 1920s. Her correspondence, often to colleague A. S. Hitchcock, include fascinating details about her field work in the mountains of Brazil, interactions with local staff and colleagues, and observations of contemporary events.

### ILLUSTRATIONS

Record Unit 007186 includes 24 folders of hand-drawn illustrations documenting marine life collected during the U.S. Exploring Expedition, 1838–1842. These were drawn by Joseph Drayton, and are important sources of information about the original appearance of some of the Smithsonian's oldest specimens. The appearance of fish and other marine life can change dramatically, shortly after death or because of preservation fluids used. These images often indicate coloring and patterns on the specimen that changed or disappeared after death.

### NOT QUITE DEFINABLE

The Field Book Project cataloged 20 primary documents that are part of the Russell E. Train Africana collection housed at the Joseph F. Cullman 3rd Library (NMNH). One of these is a handmade book containing butterfly specimens created by Sir John Kirk. When Kirk created the book, he chose to assemble the images. They are comprised of wings from collected butterflies, but the rest of the anatomy has been painted in. The effect is striking. Each specimen includes varying levels of identification and location information.

It may be instinctive to picture a handwritten journal with sketches when someone says "field book." The Field Book Project does include many field books that coordinate with this classic definition; however, other formats also contain important information about specimen collecting. We encourage you to take a closer look at the diversity of field book materials available on the Smithsonian's Collection Search Center: [http://collections.si.edu/search/results.htm?view=&dsort=&date.slider=&q=unit\\_code%3AFBR&tag.cstype=all](http://collections.si.edu/search/results.htm?view=&dsort=&date.slider=&q=unit_code%3AFBR&tag.cstype=all). To learn more about the Field Book Project and the materials we catalog, visit our website, <http://www.mnh.si.edu/rc/fieldbooks/>, and check out our weekly blog, where you'll find more in-depth content and details on project developments.

*Lesley Parilla is the cataloger for the Field Book Project, Smithsonian Institution Archives / National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC.*



## PRESERVING OUR SHARED HISTORY: HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION IN AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

*Kelly Spradley-Kurowski*

*The Park History Program of the National Park Service is managing an initiative to improve the documentation and nomination of new properties within parks to the National Register of Historic Places and as National Historic Landmarks.*

That the National Park Service (NPS) stewards many of America's unparalleled natural and scenic wonders is well known and celebrated. Nearly 300 million people, from the United States and around the world, visit our national parks each year, and their grandeur has been extolled in print, on film, and across the internet. Less remembered by the public is that the NPS is also the nation's leading agency for *historic and cultural* preservation, both within and outside the boundaries of national park sites. Understanding the resources it manages is what allows the NPS to preserve for the American people many of their irreplaceable historic and archeological resources: iconic sites that represent the enshrining of the American idea, such as Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia; that celebrate our achievements, such as Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in Ohio; and that even force us to confront the struggles and difficult periods in our shared history, such as Manzanar National Historic Site in California and Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site in Kansas.

The NPS Organic Act of 1916 directed the Park Service "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life . . . by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Later, in response to widespread concern about the destruction of much of America's cultural heritage from highway construction and urban renewal projects, Congress passed the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), which created the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the nation's official inventory of both public and private properties worthy of preservation at the local, state, and national levels. With the NHPA, Congress directed the NPS to inventory and document cultural resources through listing in the sister programs of the National Register and National Historic Landmarks (NHL). The documents thus created are foundational to park resource planning, management, and facility maintenance, and are central to interpretive and educational programs for visitors in person and online. To more fully comply with this and other requirements for historic preservation of federally owned properties, the NPS Park History Program is in its third year of a five-year National Register Initiative to update park nomination documents and nominate new properties within parks to the register and as landmarks.



*The Neilson Farm within Saratoga National Historical Park, one of the units whose documentation was updated with National Register Initiative funding.*

Currently, the NRHP contains over 80,000 properties, representing over 1.4 million individual resources. Although listing in the NRHP does not in itself provide protection or restrict property owners' ability to alter or destroy their property, it does encourage owners both public and private to identify and evaluate historic and archeological resources. The NPS administers the program in partnership with state historic preservation offices (SHPOs), Tribal Preservation Offices (TPOs), and Federal Preservation Offices (FPOs). National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant properties designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they have exceptional value in illustrating the heritage of the United States. Fewer than 2,500 properties have received this designation, but all properties designated as NHLs are also automatically listed in the NHRP. The process of NHL designation is distinct from and usually takes longer than NRHP designation, but both require documentation, photographs, and maps that identify the resources, clearly explain the property's significance, and precisely define the area to be included in the listing. The documentation produced provides critical information about historic and archeological resources to property owners, land managers, and local, state, and federal officials.

The Initiative is providing funds to address documentation deficiencies of several types. Sections 110 and 106 of

the NHPA require *all* federal agencies to maintain programs to identify, evaluate, and nominate to the NRHP *any* historic properties they own or control and to consider the effects of their actions on such properties. National Register Federal Program Regulations stipulate, in 36 CFR 60.1, that historical units of the NPS, such as Saratoga National Historical Park, are eligible for and *administratively* listed in the NRHP upon their authorization or establishment. This does not imply that the accompanying documentation is completed at that time, only that the NRHP designation and the provisions of Section 106 and 110 are conferred with establishment, as the unit's significance is implied by congressional or Presidential designation as any one of the numerous titles given to historical units. These requirements create an ongoing need for documentation for any historical units that come into the system in the future.

A large part of the current Initiative is focused on updating and improving existing nominations. Within its current 398 units, the NPS manages thousands of historic and prehistoric resources, whether the unit was created for its historic value or not (think of the historic buildings and archeological sites within Grand Canyon National Park, for instance). Existing NRHP and NHL documentation varies widely in age, scope, and content. When the project began in 2010, nearly 20 percent of resources in existing nominations were not properly identified and inventoried, constraining resource managers' ability to preserve them as legally required. An additional 55 percent were tied to nominations more than 20 years old. These older nominations often are not up to current NRHP standards, lacking baseline technical information about individual park resources, especially those at risk of damage from infrastructure projects, such as archeological sites and cultural landscapes. They often no longer represent the current state of knowledge on a park resource or its historical context. Nor do they necessarily reflect current physical realities due to post-nomination boundary adjustments and property acquisitions. No other documents carry the weight of an NRHP nomination with regard to planning, management, interpretation, or compliance with either Section 106 or

Section 110 of the NHPA. Keeping documentation current is critical.

First-time nominations are being planned and prepared through the Initiative for many of the 4,915 NRHP-eligible historic and prehistoric structures, plus hundreds of cultural landscapes and archeological sites, for which no nominations exist. In addition to the new historic units mentioned above, these eligible resources (often identified through Section 106 review) could also exist within long-standing units not established specifically for their historical significance, such as the Light Station at Point Reyes National Seashore. A final group of over 1,500 resources in non-specifically historic units still await even an eligibility determination. Taken together, all categories represent a considerable percentage of NPS resources for which reliable NRHP documentation for planning and management purposes does not exist.

The National Register Initiative, funded by the NPS Recreation Fee Program, is addressing these deficiencies across the system. In the project's first phase, the NPS Regional Offices undertook a detailed assessment of the documentation levels of the historic and prehistoric resources in the parks of each region, and Washington staff provided training on current documentation standards for regional and park staff. Although the central Washington office provides overall direction and technical assistance, each region sets its own priorities for documentation with the funding provided. Therefore, if one region sees a particular need for documentation of post-World War II park structures, while another needs to focus its efforts on pre-contact (pre-European) archeological sites, the initiative's flexibility allows this to happen. Similarly, each region determines whether hiring temporary federal employees or using contractors will better suit its needs. This ensures that the results are focused where the needs are greatest.

It is projected that over 330 new or updated nominations will be completed by the time the project is finished. Although the nearly \$5 million from this project won't be able to address the full scope of deficiencies throughout the system, the project has raised awareness of the need for proper NRHP and NHL records and has led to higher numbers of NRHP submissions from all funding sources. In the two years since the initiative began, NRHP submissions from parks have increased by 27 percent over the two years prior to the initiative, with most of that increase accounted for by non-Initiative funds. These direct and indirect effects will mean better understanding and management of sites such as Antietam National Battlefield, Kalaupapa National Historical Park, and Nicodemus National Historic Site—places that define our shared American heritage.

*Kelly Spradley-Kurowski is a historian with the Park History Program, National Park Service, in Washington, DC.*

## 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 [webmaster@shfg.org](mailto:webmaster@shfg.org)

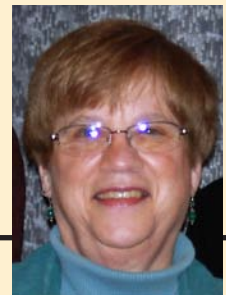
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## THE HISTORY PROFESSIONAL

*Charlene Bangs Bickford is Director of the First Federal Congress Project (FFCP) at George Washington University (GWU), where she has worked on all 20 of the published volumes of the Documentary History of the First Federal Congress, 1789–1791 (DHFFC). She has lectured and published articles on the First Federal Congress (FFC) and advocated for historical/archival causes and promoted documentary editing through leadership roles in several historical associations and as an instructor at George Mason University and GWU. She has also co-produced two volumes: Birth of a Nation: The First Federal Congress, 1789–1791, and Creating the Bill of Rights: The Documentary Record from the First Federal Congress: 1789–1791. She has served as president of SHFG, 1990–92.*



*Interview by Benjamin Guterman*

*Charlene Bangs Bickford*

**Congratulations to your editorial team for receiving SHFG’s Thomas Jefferson Prize for Volumes XVIII–XX, Correspondence of the Second Session. What do you think makes the series so noteworthy?**

This is the third time that volumes of the DHFFC have been chosen for the Thomas Jefferson Prize, and I think that recognition has come because of the essential importance of both this Congress and its documentary record to the history of our federal government. The members themselves recognized their unique role in implementing the new Constitution and ensuring the ultimate success of this untested governmental experiment. The editorial method for the correspondence series allows us to provide every bit of known extant documentary evidence about the work of Congress, as well as the private and social lives of its members. The fact that we excerpt or calendar many of the documents makes these volumes very dense with information and new revelations about the early history of the federal government.

That said, there are many great projects out there publishing book or digital editions of material related to the history of the Federal Government, and I hope that editors on those projects or their presses will submit their latest products for the 2014 prize. This is one of only two prizes given for documentary editions, and I’d like to see a strong field of nominees for the prize.

**How did you get started on the First Federal Congress Project?**

I often say “almost accidentally.” I was in graduate school at GWU and working part time for the old Civil Service Commission when I was told that I had scored too high on the Civil Service exam to stay in the position that I then held. I turned down a position as a claims examiner and headed down Constitution Ave. visiting personnel offices armed with my new GS-7 rating. A personnel officer at the IRS sent me to the personnel director at the National Archives. After some difficulty getting past her receptionist, I managed to gain access to the personnel director, and she sent me to Dr. Oliver W. Holmes, Jr., Executive Direc-

tor of the NHPC. He offered me a position with the Ratification of the Constitution Project, where part of my job was to distribute copies of documents located in a joint search to the FFCP at GWU and the First Federal Elections Project at the University of Wisconsin. I had been there about four months when Dr. Linda Grant DePauw, then the director of the FFCP, came to visit the office on the 20th (stack elevator) floor of National Archives to offer me a job. Free tuition was part of the deal, and I immediately said yes. Dr. DePauw believed in delegating, and I was soon managing the FFCP.

**Are the editorial guidelines and methodologies you use different in some ways from other major documentary projects? And how have evolving digital capabilities affected the work?**

Most documentary editions are organized by straight chronological order, while some are done topically. The DHFFC is structured primarily by document type and in three series: official (vols. 1–8), debates (vols. 9–14), and correspondence (vols. 15–22). The DHFFC was envisioned as comprehensive, so document selection has been relatively easy, which sets us apart from many projects. The chronological charts tracing the progress of legislation through the two houses in volumes 4–6 (*Legislative Histories*) are the most innovative annotation that we have developed. We started producing electronic text (Wang) coded for typesetting in the early 1980s, and have been using computer programs for indexing since the mid ’80s. We were participants in the first Model Editions Partnership sponsored by the NHPRC, and the results of that project—a mini-edition of most of the FFC documents relating to the creation of the first three executive departments—is on our website, <http://www.gwu.edu/~ffcp/>, along with an online version of an exhibit on the FFC we produced in 1989 and a teacher’s guide to using the exhibit. I’m currently working with a graduate student and web designer to add to the site so that we can leave a more robust electronic legacy. The Johns Hopkins University Press has put the entire DHFFC online as a subscription database. We’re

currently doing a follow-up search using the amazing electronic resources now available—it’s a far cry from the days when we had to go to repositories and request every collection with documents dated between 1789 and 1791.

**You have a very capable editorial team. How are the duties divided or shared?**

The four of us have worked together for decades, and we have developed a common vision for the volumes and series. We also each have our own areas of expertise. We make decisions about content of the volumes, editorial method, and other larger questions together. Ken Bowling and Chuck diGiacomantonio do preliminary selection, making decisions on whether to print in full, excerpt, or calendar an item. They also draft the annotation, including the biographical gazetteers, which are primarily diGiacomantonio’s job. Helen Veit is responsible for creating the draft text through transcription of the documents, putting calendars into the proper format, asking questions, catching mistakes, putting in the headings and notes, and creating the text in final coded form. She also is our resident British history expert. I review selection decisions and the “final” text, asking questions, making suggestions and corrections. Though we each have our individual areas of responsibility, we also check one another’s work.

**Can you describe two or three interesting historical “finds” or new insights that you’ve experienced over the years?**

Senator William Maclay of Pennsylvania kept a diary while serving in the FFC. Since the Senate met in secret, this diary is an extremely important primary resource. Historians, including J. Franklin Jameson, had doubted Vice President John Adams’ note to himself “see Maclay’s notes” because all they knew about was Edgar S. Maclay’s 1927 publication of his ancestor’s diary. They couldn’t imagine Maclay showing the document that formed the basis for this publication to his colleagues because of all the

negative comments he makes in the document about fellow Senators. The original of Maclay’s handwritten diary is in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. We transcribed the diary using a Xerox copy made from a microfilm of the manuscript diary as the source. We then spent weeks in the Manuscript Division proofreading our transcript against the original. During this process we discovered a loose page of notes that was not on the film. These notes simply recorded the day’s happenings. We then realized that Maclay took accurate notes on the proceedings, something that his colleagues were well aware of, and then went back to his boarding house and used and expanded these notes to write his diary entries full of often caustic commentary.

Another revelation was that most of the members of the FFC saw the amendments to the Constitution that we call the Bill of Rights as unnecessary because rights were protected in state constitutions. It is clear that the primary motivation for passing the amendments was to convince North Carolina and Rhode Island to join the Union.

The most exciting thing that we have been involved in is helping North Carolina recover its original of the Bill of Rights—but there has been a fascinating book written about that (David Howard, *Lost Rights: The Misadventures of a Stolen American Relic*).

**The online exhibit you curated, “Birth of a Nation,” states that the First Federal Congress was a “virtual second sitting” of the Constitutional Convention. How so?**

While the Constitutional Convention established the bare bones framework of the new Federal Government, it was Congress that was responsible for fleshing out that framework. The Constitution is quite specific about the powers and duties of the legislature, but the executive and judicial branches are left mostly undefined except for the presidential powers and establishing that there would be a Supreme Court. The FFC counted the electoral votes for

## VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

SHFG recently launched Facebook ([facebook.com/SHFGHistorians](https://facebook.com/SHFGHistorians)) and Twitter ([@SHFGHistorians](https://twitter.com/SHFGHistorians)) pages in addition to our YouTube Channel ([youtube.com/user/SHFGHistorians](https://youtube.com/user/SHFGHistorians)). These are part of an effort to improve outreach to members and potential members. While social media features will not replace the E-Bulletin, *The Federalist*, or the SHFG web site as sources of news and information, they will act as supplements for items of interest. The Twitter and Facebook pages also serve as a forum for members to share noteworthy information and interact with one another. Please “Like” or “Follow” us and share your links, news, images, and other media.

President, inaugurated George Washington, passed the legislation that established the first three executive departments (War, State, and Treasury), and passed what has become known as the “Bill of Rights,” thus fixing a flaw in the Constitution that had threatened its ratification.

**The first congressmen must have felt great pressure and urgency to establish the federal framework. Is that evident in the documents, and, in general, how did they overcome partisanship to be so productive?**

The members clearly understood that they had a full and pressing agenda before them and that the future of their new nation depended upon them. While there were serious debates during its first session that revealed sectional and other divisions, as well as differing interpretations of the Constitution, the Congress managed to work through issues quite harmoniously and productively. For example, there were four different constitutional interpretations brought up in the House debate relating to who had the power to remove executive officials. Some members argued that impeachment was the only constitutional method of removal, while others contended that the President could remove an executive official only with the consent of the Senate. Others believed that the Congress should grant this power to the President in legislation. Interestingly, the final legislation is silent on this issue, signaling that the Congress accepted the interpretation that this power was implied in the powers of the executive.

**In your promotion of documentary editing outside of the FFCP, through other organizations, what have been some of your professional causes or concerns?**

I first became involved in advocacy for federal history in 1979 as a member of the Emergency Committee to Preserve the National Archives—a subversive cell that met in Pete Daniel’s basement apartment on Capitol Hill—see: <http://www.oah.org/pubs/nl/2008may/smock.html>. We successfully opposed the effort by the then-GSA Administrator, retired admiral Rowland Freeman III, to disperse many of the records held in the National Archives building to records centers around the nation. With the advent of the Reagan Administration and the across-the-board attempts to eliminate or seriously cut federal programs that support history, I was one of the founders of an ad hoc group called the Coalition to Save Our Documentary Heritage, which eventually had a membership of over 50 historical and archival organizations. We sent out mailed alerts every week and waged a constant battle to save the NHPRC, which was zeroed out. After the National Archives budget was cut, fighting those cuts was added to the agenda. Eventually we added independence to the Coalition’s goals, and by the mid 1980s, the NHPRC’s grants program had survived, and NARA was a newly independent agency.

**As an instructor in documentary editing, what primary skills and responsibilities do you emphasize?**

One of the central goals of documentary editors is to present the historical record as completely and accurately as possible. Every step of the process from planning the project to final publication needs to be done very carefully with much attention to detail. I always stress that working in teams and checking and rechecking each other is ideal. It’s not a profession for those who expect things to be done at lightning speed. I think that the patience and perseverance that editors need in order to follow up on every single detail and not be discouraged by dead ends is of primary importance.

**Could you explain the Project Center’s services for researchers?**

During office hours, all the resources in our office are open to anyone doing serious research on the FFC, its members, and related topics. We answer researchers’ questions, point them to resources they should explore, and generally share what we know. We have assisted everyone from an 11-year-old working on a film for National History Day project, to reporters looking for historical background, to attorneys working on briefs for federal cases, to prize-winning historian Jack Rakove. The research issue that I’ve been most involved with is the somewhat contentious debate over whether or not George Washington added “So help me God” to the constitutional oath of office. This is a myth that got started 50 years after his inauguration, and there is no proof that he or any President before Chester A. Arthur added the phrase.

**The Project has published 20 volumes. How many more are projected, and what topics will they cover?**

Two volumes remain to be published. Volume 21, *Correspondence: Third Session*, which will be sent to the press this year, covers the letters, newspaper articles, etc. relating to the final session of the FFC, which passed legislation establishing the first national bank and the excise tax on domestically produced distilled spirits, and also ratified George Washington’s choice for the location of the Federal Seat of Government (today’s District of Columbia). It also expanded the federal military establishment to combat Indian hostilities in the Northwest Territory and made valiant, though ultimately unsuccessful, attempts to establish a uniform militia throughout the United States and officially establish the post offices and post roads. Volume 22 will include a major section on the Second Federal Election, which occurred during the FFC and involved most of its members; post-March 1791 documents that contain information about the FFC’s actions; and additions and corrections to the entire series.

## FEDERAL HISTORY OFFICE PROFILE

The Federalist profiles a different history office in each issue.

Please direct texts, comments, and inquiries to editor Joan Zenzen at joanz10@verizon.net.

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### THE MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

Nicholas J. Schlosser

On November 10, 1775, the Continental Congress requested that two battalions of Marines be raised for an expedition against Nova Scotia. Although the expeditionary was cancelled and the battalions were never actually raised, the current Marine Corps has dated its existence to that congressional resolution. Since then the Marine Corps has accrued a rich history as the United States' principal amphibious force-in-readiness. Since 1919 the duty of chronicling the official history of the Corps has fallen to the Marine Corps History Division.

The division has gone through many different names and incarnations over the course of its existence. On September 9, 1919, the division started as the Historical Section, Department of the Adjutant and Inspector, Headquarters Marine Corps. Its initial task was to chronicle the Marines involvement in the recent war in Europe, which was published in 1920 under the title *The United States Marine Corps in the World War*. The section subsequently moved between various headquarters offices before merging with the Marine Corps Museum in 1973. Based at the Washington Navy Yard, the History and Museums Division remained a part of Headquarters until 2002. That year the History Division was reassigned to the Marine Corps University. Three years later, the division underwent a substantial restructuring and moved from Washington DC, to Quantico, VA. The Marine Corps Museum was detached and became the new National Museum of the Marine Corps, which opened its doors in November 2006.

Despite all of these changes in nomenclature and structure, History Division's objective has remained constant. As summarized in Marine Corps Order 5750.1H, the division's mission is:

To provide knowledge of the Marine Corps' past to ensure an understanding of its present and future for the Marine Corps and the American people by making its hard-earned experience and official history available for practical study and use; preserving a written, spoken, and visual record of its activities and traditions by collecting papers, articles, images, and interviews of lasting historical interest; and assisting in the Marine Corps' use of military history to aid in professional military education, training, and to provide background and precedents for decision-making.

Thus the History Division has an extensive mission: to write official history, to collect historical material, and also to provide resources to assist professional military education within the Marine Corps. Importantly, the History Division is also tasked with making knowledge of the Corps available to the American people. To accomplish this multifaceted mission, the History Division is divided into six branches: a Histories Branch, a Historical Reference Branch, an Oral History Branch, a Field History Branch, an Editing and Design Branch, and the Marine Corps Archives.

The Histories Branch is responsible for researching and writing the official histories of the Marine Corps. These range from short pamphlets to multivolume "definitive histories" designed to serve as comprehensive accounts of Marine operations in major conflicts. Among the definitive histories produced by the History Division are a 5-volume history of World War II, a 5-volume history of the Korean War, and a 10-volume account of Marines in Vietnam. In 2013 the History Division will produce its next definitive history, *U.S. Marines in the Gulf War, 1990–1991: Liberating Kuwait*, an official history of the Corps' operations in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Alongside the definitive histories, the Histories Branch has also produced numerous monographs on smaller campaigns and topics, battle studies, annotated bibliographies, and pamphlets on numerous topics. To produce these works, Marine historians draw on a wealth of primary source material produced in the field, such as unit command chronologies, interviews collected by its Field History Branch, and archival material housed at the Marine Corps Archives.

Historians in the Historical Reference Branch serve as the division's general purpose experts on all Marine Corps history topics. As the writers in the Histories Branch work on long-term projects, their colleagues in the Reference Branch field daily inquiries received from Marines, the various branches and agencies of the U.S. government, and the public at large. The branch is also responsible for lineage and honors and the commemorative naming program for the Commandant. Reference receives about 550–600 requests for information a month and has done everything from reviewing speeches on historical topics delivered by the Commandant of the Marine Corps to settling bar bets. To achieve its mission, the Reference Branch has also collected a vast number of working files entailing 1,200 linear



*Marine Corps Field Historian LtCol Tim Crowley interviews a Marine while deployed to Iraq's Anbar Province in 2005. Photo by Tim Crowley.*

feet of material divided into five file groups: biographical, geographic, subject, unit, and photographs. Each month about 15–20 researchers visit History Division to consult this rich and unique collection on Marine Corps history.

Neither the Histories nor Reference Branches could accomplish their mission without the collection efforts of the Oral History and Field History branches. The Field History Branch is comprised of 17 Marine Corps reservists who deploy to combat zones where they interview officers and enlisted in the field. These interviews, often conducted during engagements, serve as an immediate and invaluable source of material. The Oral History Branch's archive contains almost 6,000 interviews taken during Operations Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom and have served as the foundation for History Division's recent monographs on those conflicts. Field History Branch's current projects include interviewing Marines who fought against the Taliban's September 14, 2012, assault on Camp Bastion.

As the name implies, the Editing and Design Branch is responsible for the production of History Division's publications, including the Marine Corps Historical Program's bulletin *Fortitudine*. The branch is also responsible for the publications of the Marine Corps University Press. Along with the *Marine Corps University Journal*, the press has produced books by scholars affiliated with the Marine Corps University, the Middle East Institute, and the Center for Naval Analyses. Among its notable recent publications are *War, Will, and Warlords: Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan and Pakistan, 2001–2011* by Robert M. Cassidy and *Rethinking a Middle East in Transition*, edited by Kenneth H. Williams.

The sixth branch of History Division is the Marine Corps Archives, which "collects, organizes, describes, provides access to, and manages the complete lifecycle of

record copies of Marine Corps materials." The Archives' holdings, located at a research facility inside the Gray Research Center in Quantico, are vast and entail 30,000 linear feet of holdings and 5,241 personal papers collections. Its holdings also include command chronologies, special reports, peacetime exercise reports, the annual summary of Headquarters Marine Corps Staff Activities, Post and Station Newspapers, and Field Interviews. An average of 2,500 visitors conduct research at the archives every year.

History has long formed an integral part of the identity of all Marines and to the Marine Corps as an institution, and the study of the past is also an important element of the professional education of all Marines. For the past 94 years the Marine Corps History Division has insured that this history is recorded accurately and objectively for Marines, the military, and the American public.

#### **MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION**

Marine Corps University  
3078 Upshur Ave  
Quantico, VA 22134

**Director:** Charles P. Neimeyer

**Staff:** A director, a deputy director, a chief historian, an administrative assistant, three writing historians (including the chief historian), five reference historians, two oral historians, one research assistant, seven editors, three designers, six archivists, two technicians, one field historian (on active duty).

**Office Activities and Responsibilities:** "To provide knowledge of the Marine Corps' past to ensure an understanding of its present and future for the Marine Corps and the American people by making its hard-earned experience and official history available for practical study and use; preserving a written, spoken, and visual record of its activities and traditions by collecting papers, articles, images, and interviews of lasting historical interest; and assisting in the Marine Corps' use of military history to aid in professional military education, training, and to provide background and precedents for decision-making." MCO 5750.1H

**Recent Publications:** *U.S. Marines in Battle: Fort Fisher, December 1864–January 1865* by Major David W. Kummer; *U.S. Marines in Afghanistan, 2001–2002: From the Sea* by Colonel Nathan S. Lowrey; *U.S. Marines in Iraq, 2003: Combat Service Support During Operation Iraqi Freedom* by Lieutenant Colonel Melissa D. Mihocko; *U.S. Marines in Iraq, 2004–2008: Anthology and Annotated Bibliography* by Dr. Nicholas J. Schlosser.

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## HISTORY TIMELINES AND TOOLS TO CREATE THEM

Tali Beesley

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) has published a new interactive map and timeline feature that graphically illustrates events from World War II in both space and time: <http://www.abmc.gov/multimedia/ww2/index.html>. Viewers can choose from a map or chart interface and then explore their interests by selecting either geographic points or events from specified months of the war. The site then presents the viewer with relevant event summaries, images, and videos. The new feature is impressive in both its scope and the sophistication of its design. While load times are not always instantaneous, the quality of the content makes any wait worth it. The feature is an exemplary model for any institution with an extensive collection that covers wide swaths of geography and time—and that has the resources to create a custom interactive feature.

For those without dedicated IT teams or the resources to hire them, there are many timeline generators available on the web that are easy to set up with little or no cost. For a comparison chart of functionalities, you might refer to a handy spreadsheet from an unknown author, <http://goo.gl/nOQfq>, which lays out various online timeline tools and their relative features.

### EXAMPLE TIMELINES FROM GOVERNMENT SITES

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has used the tool Dipity ([www.dipity.com](http://www.dipity.com)) to create a timeline showing “key milestones in occupational safety and health history since the creation of OSHA”: <http://www.osha.gov/osh40/timeline.html>. The timeline allows users to zoom in and out to display varied date ranges, to click on events for more details, to view relevant images, and even to see events on a map.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has used Timetoast ([www.time-toast.com/](http://www.time-toast.com/)) to create a timeline highlighting prevention and wellness components of the Affordable Care Act: <http://www.samhsa.gov/healthreform/prevention.aspx>. The timeline allows for timeline or text views, and permits viewers to expand on topics by clicking on them.

The Idaho State Historical Society has used Timeglider (<http://timeglider.com/>) to create a timeline highlighting “some of the people, places, and events that have made Idaho history”: [http://history.idaho.gov/history\\_timeline](http://history.idaho.gov/history_timeline). Timeglider, similar to Dipity, allows viewers to zoom in and out to display varied date ranges, to click on events for more details, and to view relevant images.





The U.S. Department of Labor has used TimelineJS (<http://timeline.verite.co/>) to create a timeline highlighting its history: <http://www.dol.gov/100/timeline/>. TimelineJS has an aesthetically pleasing layout that shows the event the viewer clicks on in the upper portion of the screen, and the full timeline in the lower portion of the screen.

The National Science Foundation highlights its history ([http://www.nsf.gov/news/special\\_reports/history-nsf/timeline/index.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/history-nsf/timeline/index.jsp)) using a SIMILE widget (<http://www.simile-widgets.org/timeline/>). The timeline allows viewers to drag the timeline left and right using their mouse and click on any event highlighted for more information.

#### OTHER TOOLS

There are many other tools worth exploring including the following:

myHistro: <http://www.myhistro.com/>

Neatline (an add-on for Omeka): <http://neatline.org/>

Timetoast: <http://www.timetoast.com/>

TimeRime: <http://www.timerime.com/en/>

Viewshare (does much more than just timelines): <http://viewshare.org/>

#### MORE EXAMPLES

Other custom timelines worth gaining inspiration from include NASA's 50th Anniversary Timeline (<http://www.nasa.gov/50th/timeline.html>), the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory History Timeline (<http://www.pnnl.gov/about/history.asp>), the Department of State's Timeline of U.S. Diplomatic History (<http://future.state.gov/when/timeline.html>), and the Department of Health and Human Services' Maternal and Child Health "History, Legacy and Resources for Education and Practice" Timeline (<http://mchb.hrsa.gov/timeline/index.shtml>).

It is important to keep in mind when creating a timeline to put on a government site that there must also be a 508 compliant version of the timeline. Most of the examples listed above have also included a link to a 508 compliant text-based version of their timelines.

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[www.shfg.org/shfg/category/recentpublications](http://www.shfg.org/shfg/category/recentpublications)

## FOIA MATTERS

Tom Tangen's research on American rifle grenade launchers and rifle grenades from World War I to 1960 has yielded a cache of previously classified documents from as far back as 1910 and as recent as the late 1940s from the National Archives. Nearly five years ago, Tangen discovered the existence of classified records from the 1950s that contained potentially valuable information about a little-known weapon of the World War II and Korean War eras. Tangen submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request in July 2008 hoping to get the records declassified.

By 2012, he'd received documents from one of three agencies to which the Archives referred responsive records for those agencies' review and response. But neither he nor Supervisory Archives Specialist David Fort had any luck tracking down 195 pages sent to two Department of Defense (DoD) components: Office of the Secretary of Defense-Joint Chiefs of Staff (OSD/JS) and the Department of the Army. The records appeared to have disappeared into a black hole.

OGIS contacted Stephanie Carr, DoD's FOIA Public Liaison, who tracked the records to the Picatinny Arsenal, U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, in northern New Jersey. A Picatinny FOIA professional discovered the classified records tucked away in a safe in her office; she and her colleagues quickly reviewed the documents and determined that although they no longer contained DoD- or Army-classified information, they did contain some foreign government information of possible interest to the State Department. Fort showed the documents to State Department reviewers at the Archives, and they had no objection to release, so the records were declassified.

Tangen returned to the Archives to review the material, which he plans to compile, along with the other information he's gathered, for reference by other interested enthusiasts.

"Without Mr. Fort's ongoing assistance and yours, I would likely still be waiting for access to the material," Tangen wrote OGIS.

### OGIS

Office of Government  
Information Services

### NEED FOIA ASSISTANCE?

The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) is here to help.

Created by Congress as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and housed at the National Archives, OGIS serves as a neutral party within the Federal Government to which anyone—requester or agency—can come for assistance with any aspect of the FOIA process. Contact OGIS at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov) or 202-741-5770.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

## SHFG'S DRAFTING OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS, 1983–1985

By Charles Downs

The March 1985 issue of *The Federalist* included as an insert a two-page document titled *Principles and Standards for Federal Historical Programs*. As noted in its first paragraph, the statement “drafted by a subcommittee of the Historical Programs Committee, has been unanimously adopted by the Executive Council of the Society for History in the Federal Government.” It goes on to state:

*The Society urges all persons serving as historians in the federal government and all government officials administering historical programs to use this statement as a guide in their historical activities.*

The statement then lists three “General Principles”: first, federal historians have the right to expect to be treated as professionals; second, they have the responsibility to serve the scholarly profession and the public, as well as their agencies, without bias; and third, they should accept limitations on their right to publish or speak publicly about restricted material. It goes on to discuss seven specific applications of these principles relating to historical records, historical research, historical writing, use of oral evidence, advice to policy makers, preservation of historical sites and artifacts, and contracting. The content of this document gives no hint of the long and difficult road that it traveled to publication.

However, we do have some insight into that process because Martin Reuss, a historian with the Corps of Engineers and chairman of the SHFG subcommittee that drafted the statement, published an article in the Winter 1986 issue of *The Public Historian* titled “Federal Historians: Ethics and Responsibility in the Bureaucracy” (Vol. 8 no.1, pp. 13–20). In the article, Reuss, who was clearly the driving force behind the “Principles and Standards” document, discusses why he saw a need for the SHFG to circulate such a document, originally called an ethics statement, but later renamed when its scope and coverage expanded. But we do not just have to take Reuss’s view of events since the SHFG Archives includes two folders containing background information and communications that document his essay. Thus, we are in the enviable position of comparing what Reuss wrote to the actual memos, letters, and notes generated by the work of the Profes-



Martin Reuss in a more recent image, 2006.

sional Ethics Subcommittee. Reuss fairly presents the difficulties, compromises, and opposition that the committee faced in the almost two years (1983–1984) that it took to get the subcommittee’s statement approved by the SHFG leadership. Some members supported it in concept, but objected to the specific wording, while others failed to see any need for it at all. Others thought it insulting to remind historians of the basic tenets of their profession or suspected that academic historians would use it to demean federal historians.

Reuss dismissed such objections and argued that the document was designed to support historians in the field and to educate their supervisors as to their role. As might be expected, Reuss’s characterization of those who opposed the draft statement was much milder in his article than in his correspondence. His language in one of his memos to the subcommittee was so embittered that one of its members, Don Ritchie, took Reuss to task for his caustic tone, and reminded him that this criticism had come from the highest level of the SHFG, the very members whose support was necessary to ensure that the Principles and Standards statement represented the entire organization. Ritchie argued that the draft statement must be revised in order to reach a broad consensus of SHFG members. Just when it appeared that things were at an impasse, Reuss invited three Executive Council members to help redraft the statement. Changes proposed by Richard Hewlett answered many of the objections to the original statement. After some revision, this draft formed the basis of the final version of the statement approved by the Executive Council on December 19, 1984, and subsequently published in *The Federalist* in 1985, and separately printed in 1986 and reprinted in 1996. While Reuss realized that the final published statement was not perfect, it was a useful document for both federal historians and their supervisors. It is unlikely that the statement would have ever seen the light of day without the dedication and perseverance of one man: Marty Reuss. A line in one of his memos to other Professional Ethics Subcommittee members may explain how he was able to do it. Reuss simply stated, “I am a stubborn man.”

The “Principles and Standards” are online at [www.shfg.org/shfg/programs/professional-standards/](http://www.shfg.org/shfg/programs/professional-standards/). To learn more about the SHFG Archives, contact Chas Downs at [chasdowns@verizon.net](mailto:chasdowns@verizon.net).

# MAKING HISTORY

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Department of State has released *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1977–1980, Volume XIII, China*. This volume is the first publication in a new subseries of the Foreign Relations series that documents the most important foreign policy issues of the Jimmy Carter presidential administration. The documentation in this volume focuses primarily on the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China, as well as the concomitant ending of formal diplomatic relations between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan). Over the course of the period documented, the United States and the People's Republic of China accelerated the development of economic, cultural, technological, and, following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, military relations. This volume was compiled and edited by David Nickles. The volume and this press release are available on the Office of the Historian website at <http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus/1977-80v13>. To purchase from the U.S. Government Printing Office online: <http://bookstore.gpo.gov> (GPO S/N 044-000-02657-1; ISBN 978-0-16-091743-1), or toll-free at 1-866-512-1800.

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Jessie Kratz has been appointed as the National Archives Historian. “The agency charged with preserving the history of the country now has an agency historian,” said Archivist David S. Ferriero. Kratz will play a significant role in the new records management process, and will also provide valuable advice and historical insight to the senior leadership on major decisions. Since 2000, Kratz worked in the Center for Legislative Archives. As an archives specialist, she helped plan and curate exhibits. She was a curator for *Running For Office: the Cartoons of Clifford Berryman*, and for *The Majority Loses?* at the National Archives in Washington, DC, and she has been an Exhibit Content Working Group member at the U.S. Capitol Visitor's Center since 2002.

## NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

The Office of History recently received the oral history transcripts of Dr. Peter Piot. The interviews were conducted by Dr. Victoria Harden, founding director of the Office of History. Dr. Piot became the founding director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, known as UNAIDS, and led it through the massive task of addressing AIDS throughout the world. Under his direction, UN-AIDS became the chief advocate for worldwide action

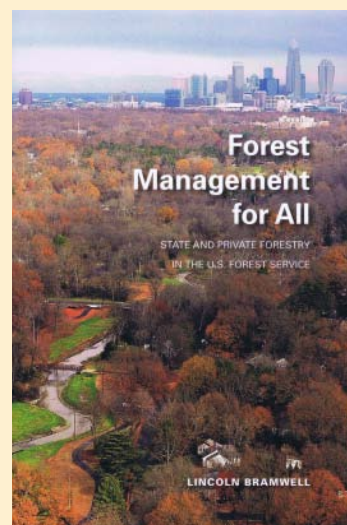
against AIDS and spearheaded UN reform by bringing together 10 different UN agencies in the effort. The transcripts are available online at the “AIDS in Their Own Words”: <http://history.nih.gov/NIHInOwnWords/docs/peterpiot.html> site.

## U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Created in 1908, the State and Private Forestry (S&PF) branch of the U.S. Forest Service provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners, state agencies, tribes, and community resource managers to help sustain urban and rural forests. S&PF also helps them protect communities and the environment from wildland fires, insects, disease, and invasive plants.

Dr. Lincoln Bramwell, the Forest Service's Chief Historian, documents the history of the branch, in a new publication titled *Forest Management for All: State & Private Forestry in the U.S. Forest Service*. Bramwell demonstrates why S&PF was able to overcome numerous challenges—sometimes to its very existence—to assume leadership in providing and coordinating technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers. The book is available from the Forest History Society ([www.foresthistory.org](http://www.foresthistory.org)).

See additional news online at [www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org).



## SHFG ONLINE

New at [www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org)

- Latest federal history news
- Video of Trask Lecture 2013
- Recent publications from federal history offices
- *The Federalist* past issues
- Registration for SHFG Directory
- Calendar of conferences
- *FEDERAL HISTORY* journal



Send news and information to [webmaster@shfg.org](mailto:webmaster@shfg.org)



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## FEDERALIST CALENDAR

**June 20–22, 2013. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR).** Annual Meeting. “America and the World—The World And America.” Arlington, VA. Visit <http://www.shafri.org/conferences/2013-annual-meeting/>.

**June 27–July 2, 2013. American Library Association,** Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. Visit <http://www.ala.org/conferences/ev-ents/upcoming>

**July 11–13, 2013. Association for Documentary Editing (ADE).** Annual Meeting. Ann Arbor, MI. Visit <http://www.documentaryediting.org/meeting/index.html>.

**July 18–21, 2013. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR).** Annual Meeting. St. Louis, MO. Visit <http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/ctfriend/SHEAR.htm>.

**Aug. 11–17, 2013. Society of American Archivists (SAA) and Council of State Archivists.** Joint Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. Visit <http://www2.archivists.org/conference/2013/new-orleans/call-for-session-proposals-archives-new-orleans-2013>.

**Aug. 29–Sept. 1, 2013. American Political Science Association (APSA).** Annual Meeting & Exhibition Theme: “Power and Persuasion.” Chicago, IL. Visit [http://www.apsanet.org/content\\_77049.cfm?navID=988](http://www.apsanet.org/content_77049.cfm?navID=988)

**Oct. 9–13, 2013. Oral History Association (OHA).** Annual Meeting. “Hidden Stories, Contested Truths: The Craft of Oral History.” Oklahoma City, OK. Visit <http://www.oralhistory.org/2012/10/12/2013-annual-meeting-call-for-papers/>.

**Oct. 9–12, 2013. Western History Association (WHA).** Annual Meeting. “Vital Signs: Earth, Power, Lives.” Tucson, AZ. Visit <http://www.westernhistoryassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013-Call-for-Papers.pdf>.

**Oct. 17–18, 2013. Center for Cryptologic History.** Biennial Cryptologic History Symposium. “Technological Change and Cryptology: Meeting the Historical Challenges.” Laurel, Maryland. Visit [http://www.nsa.gov/about/cryptologic\\_heritage/center\\_crypt\\_history/news/index.shtml](http://www.nsa.gov/about/cryptologic_heritage/center_crypt_history/news/index.shtml)

**Oct. 31–Nov. 3, 2013. Southern Historical Association (SHA).** Annual Meeting. St. Louis, MO. Visit [http://sha.uga.edu/meeting/call\\_for\\_papers.htm](http://sha.uga.edu/meeting/call_for_papers.htm).

**Mar. 18–22, 2014. Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA).** 74th Annual Meeting. Albuquerque, NM. Visit <http://www.sfaa.net/sfaa2014.html>

**Mar. 19–22, 2014. National Council on Public History (NCPH).** Annual Meeting. “Sustainable Public History.” Monterey, California. Visit <http://ncph.org/cms/conferences/2014-annual-meeting/>

**Apr. 3–6, 2014. Society for Military History (SMH).** Annual Meeting. “Transformational Conflicts: War and its Legacy Through History.” Kansas City, MO. Visit <http://www.smh-hq.org/2014/2014annualmeeting.htmlMO>

**Apr. 10–13, 2014. Organization of American Historians (OAH).** Atlanta, Georgia. Visit <http://annualmeeting.oah.org/index.php/future-annual-meetings>

**June 19–21, 2014. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR).** Lexington, Kentucky. Visit <http://www.shafri.org/conferences/annual/2014-annual-meeting/>