



# The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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**SHFG**  
www.shfg.org

## Successful Society Meeting in Shepherdstown, WV Panels Showcase Diversity of Federal Work

### Charlene Bickford Receives the Roger R. Trask Award



Charlene Bickford received the Roger R. Trask Award and delivered the honorary lecture at the Society for History in the Federal Government's annual conference held at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies at Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Fortuitously, the annual meeting was held during the first week of April 2014 and coincided with the 225th anniversary of the week that the first House of Representatives

See "Trask Award"  
cont'd on page 4

The Society for History in the Federal Government's 2014 annual meeting at Shepherdstown, West Virginia, April 4–5, was a great success. The outside-the-beltway gathering at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies for 1½ days allowed a relaxed and productive event especially conducive for discussions and the exchange of ideas. Many thanks to our officers and volunteers for producing an exceptional program. And we especially thank Byrd Center Director Ray Smock and his capable staff for hosting and helping to organize the meeting.

On Friday evening, April 4, attendees enjoyed the Roger R. Trask Lecture, delivered by Charlene Bangs Bickford, a founding member of SHFG and Project Director and Co-Editor of the First Federal Congress Project. Everyone then enjoyed a fine reception Friday evening at the Bavarian Inn.

The full day of sessions on Saturday, April 5, demonstrated the impressive diversity of federal history work but also the range of issues and the talent involved in that work. Sessions discussed the progress and issues faced in producing the State Department's Foreign Relations series, internships and fellowships, approaches to controversial topics, new approaches in diplomatic

history, the state of work at both congressional history offices and the National Park Service, careers in federal history, investigations in the history of science and technology, Cold War-era spies, and art and architecture as sources for historical narratives.

Viewing some sessions more closely, in a panel exploring the federal government itself, Michael Reis discussed government sponsorship of wartime histories in World War II and the Korean War that were intended to provide lessons learned, and that now yield insight into early sponsorship of federal history work. Brian Lee discussed the Kennedy administration's early activism in local school desegregation cases, stressing that we recognize the active federal intervention beyond support for the broader national civil rights causes, such as the Freedom Rides or desegregation of the University of Alabama. And Michael McCall-Delgado explored the government's hesitant intervention into coal mining labor struggles, 1912–1921, expanding our knowledge of the federal role in those early years.

In a session on preservation case studies at historic sites, Evan Medley explored the problems

See "Society Meeting" cont'd on page 4



Conference attendees gather at the Robert C. Byrd Center in Shepherdstown, April 4.

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## The **FEDERALIST**

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The Society is a national professional organization open to all who are interested in federal history programs. Annual membership fee is \$55, \$35 students, \$100 institutions and includes a subscription to *The Federalist*, *Federal History* journal, and other periodic publications. Contributors are encouraged to submit articles, news listings, and photographs to the editors.

Issues one-year-old and older (Second Series) are available, along with a listing of 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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## President's Message

By David McMillen

Our recent annual meeting in early April 2014 was a huge success. Incoming President Carl Ashley deserves the credit for putting together a fine meeting covering many current issues in Federal history. Supporting credit goes to Sara Berndt, Elizabeth Charles, and Terrance Rucker. Over 100 of our colleagues attended the meeting.

The meeting was held at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies in Shepherdstown, WV. Center Director Ray Smock and his staff, Jay Wyatt, Mark Levitt, and Jody Brumage, as well as interns Sarah Brennan, Mallory Matos, Casey DeHaven, and Dylan Rosenlieb, all made us very welcome. My personal thanks go to each of them for helping to make SHFG 2014 a success. At the end of a long day on Saturday, the membership accepted Ray's kind offer for us to return to Shepherdstown for SHFG 2015.

Charlene Bickford kicked off the meeting presenting the honorary Roger R. Trask Lecture on the early interactions between Congress and President George Washington, as they developed the functional meaning of "advise and consent." Charlene is a founding member and past President of the Society for History in the Federal Government. She is also past president of the Association for Documentary Editing, Director of the First Federal Congress Project at The George Washington University, and co-editor of the 22-volume *Documentary History of the First Federal Congress, 1789-1791*, which is nearing completion. She has taught undergraduate and graduate courses for both George Washington and George Mason Universities and lectured at numerous other institutions.

However, it is her role as advocate for federal history that I know her best. In the early 1980s she led the movement to form the Coalition to Save Our Documentary Heritage, which fought the zeroing out of the NHPRC's grants program and went on to advocate for independence for the National Archives. That advocacy effort on behalf of the NHPRC, NARA, and the NEH has continued to this day.

The topics covered during the day were diverse, discussing programs at the State Department and National Park Service, and the state of congressional history with a star-studded cast that included Raymond Smock, Director, Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies and former historian of the U.S. House; Matthew Wasniewski, the current historian of the House of Representatives; and Donald Ritchie, Historian of the U.S. Senate. The full program is on the SHFG web site. I urge you to contact the authors of papers that look interesting to you.

We closed the sessions with our annual membership meeting, at which the membership approved changes to our bylaws. Ballots to the full membership are in the mail to you as I write. Members asked that we post the full membership roster and contact information on our website. The council will take that issue up at our May meeting.

It has been a busy and challenging year. The challenges of the government shutdown and the unusual winter made it more difficult to carry out our usual events. However, the success of the annual meeting makes me optimistic about the coming year. It has been an honor to serve as your President, and I look forward to serving the Society in other ways in the future.

## By Laws Changes Proposed

At the annual business meeting in Shepherdstown, WV, on April 5, the Executive Council adopted changes to the Society's By Laws that would create the position of Past President. The proposed changes would transfer the responsibility of planning the annual meeting from the Vice President to the Past President.

*The Past President shall preside over the Program Committee, including the work of planning and organizing the Society's annual conference and any special events. The Past President will also serve as an advisor to the Council and the Society officers, may represent the Society on outside boards and committees, and will assume such duties as prescribed by the President."*

It is hoped that such change would promote continuity in leadership and improve the long-term planning in the organization. A second proposal allows future voting on By Law changes to be conducted electronically. These proposals have been sent to the full membership for response by return mail by May 15, 2014.

## Letters

Congratulations on the new format for *The Federalist*. It is very clean and contemporary. The new logo on the banner, featuring Washington landmarks, clearly establishes the Society's identification with the nation's capital. As you know, I had initiated the previous design, with the cream-colored paper, blue banner, and logo of a classical column-capital, when I was the editor in the early 1990s. Honestly, I will miss that look, but it was time for a change.

The quarterly arrival of the newsletter in the mailbox is a reminder to all members that their Society continues to be a tangible force in promoting the history of the federal government. That hardcopy in their hands reinforces a sense of connection to the Society and to its mission. I believe it also makes members more inclined to renew their memberships and support the Society, both financially and through personal involvement.

Bravo for the new look! May we continue to see it in our mailboxes for years to come.

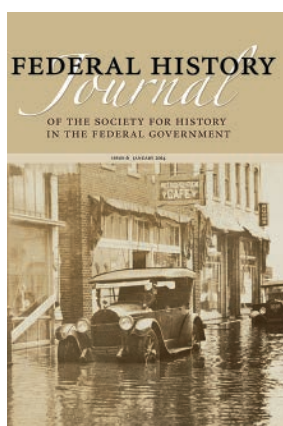
Sincerely,

Judson MacLaury

## Editor's Note

The success of our recent annual conference testifies to the vibrancy and relevance of historical programs in the federal government. We were fortunate to hear sessions that assessed current work at the premier programs of the State Department, the National Park Service, and the House and Senate historical offices. We also witnessed the fascinating diversity of current research interests and work, from labor relations to science policies and Cold War-era spies. Charlene Bickford's Trask Lecture shared recent insights into the critical formative period of presidential-congressional relations in the First Federal Congress, as President Washington and the Senate worked to define "advice and consent" under the new Constitution. Our awards program continues to recognize work that furthers federal history work. See more discussion of the conference inside. Our interview with Samuel Rushay will hopefully give you some idea of the unique duties and work at presidential libraries. Our profile of the Air Force Historical Research Agency reminds us of the vital need to preserve military history and the enormity of that task. Among our other stories, we learn of the new International Research Portal for Holocaust-era records critical for identification of and repatriation of stolen assets of all kinds. This new collective platform dramatically improves worldwide research in stolen assets and cultural artifacts. We hope you enjoy and learn from these stories, and we welcome your comments and articles at [benjamin.guterman@shfg.org](mailto:benjamin.guterman@shfg.org)

—Benjamin Guterman, editor



## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Federal History journal

*Federal History*, the journal of the Society for History in the Federal Government, seeks articles for upcoming issues.

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).

## Federalist Assistant Editors Needed

SHFG's *The Federalist* newsletter needs assistant editors to help refine and manage its expanding content. Areas of interest include specific federal history offices and their programs, as well as current initiatives in such areas as oral history, digital history, military history, museum work, declassification, archival work, interpretive work, education, and the history of science and medicine. These volunteer duties are entirely adaptable to available time and interests, and assistants will gain important insights into current work and trends in federal and public history. See past issues at <http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/the-federalist/>. Contact the editor at [benjamin.guterman@shfg.org](mailto:benjamin.guterman@shfg.org)

*“Trask Award” continued from page 1*

and Senate attained a quorum and began the essential work of fleshing out the structure of the Federal Government outlined in the Constitution. Thus, Charlene Bickford was able to seize the opportunity to talk about the historical subject that she knows best—the First Federal Congress, which Bickford and the other editors of the *Documentary History of the First Federal Congress, 1789–1791*, believe was the most important and productive Congress in U.S. history. The agenda of that seminal Congress included such daunting legislative tasks as establishing the first executive departments; determining the structure, jurisdiction, and procedures of a new federal court system; and proposing amendments to the U.S. Constitution that would remedy the fact that no statement of the rights and protections of Americans was included in the documents. Most importantly, it put the new nation on a stable financial foundation by passing legislation that set up a revenue system for the operations of the federal government and then addressing the problem of the Revolutionary War debts of both the federal and state

governments. Its every action was precedent-setting, and most of its actions involved interpreting the United States Constitution.

Charlene Bickford’s Trask Award lecture focused upon the early interactions between the first Senate and President George Washington as they struggled to establish procedures for carrying out the constitutional provision for Senate “advice and consent” to the President’s nominations, as well as the more complex issues of treaty negotiations and ratification. Based entirely upon documentary resources published in the *Documentary History of the First Federal Congress, 1789–1791*, her talk related the stories of the origin of the practice of senatorial courtesy on presidential nominations and the first attempt by President Washington to seek the Senate’s advice on treaty negotiations. One of the primary messages that Bickford conveyed was that the full story can only be known through having access to the entire body of historical records—official and unofficial. While they may be contradictory, letters, notes, diaries, newspaper articles, and other unofficial documents add depth to and breathe life into the official story.

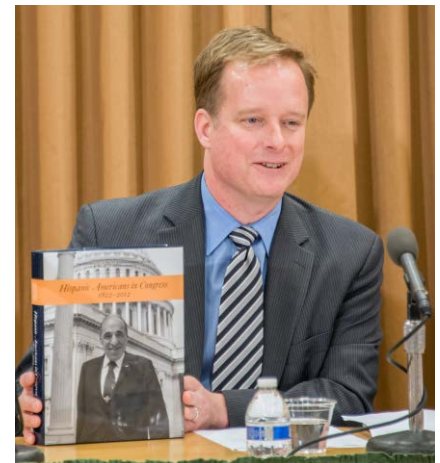
*“Society Meeting,” continued from page 1*

of preserving and explaining the history of Fort Union National Monument, New Mexico. Its isolation, ruins, and military history present problems for historical interpretation—specifically, how to incorporate diverse narratives of the military past, Native American presence, and promotion of tourism. The site illuminates the kinds of practical and planning challenges encountered at other sites. And, how do we preserve and interpret knowledge of the complex and changing human experiences at historic sites? Angela Sirna spoke of her research into Catocin National Park—the displacement of local farmers during the New Deal, the area as recreational site for the Salvation Army and other groups, the exclusion of blacks, the set-up of the first Job Corps Center, and the site of the Youth Conservation Corps there in 1971. That array of complex human stories in natural areas requires sensitive preservation and special attention.

In a very different direction, an impressive special session on digital publishing and archiving brought together practitioners from the Nixon Library, the Library of Congress, the Byrd Center, and the State Department. They discussed not only the



SHFG President David McMillen opens the conference



Matthew Wasniewski displays the new publication *Hispanic Americans in Congress, 1822–2012*

unique technical challenges they face but the extensive and inventive approaches they have employed. How to preserve data, what software and programs to use, how to produce eBooks, and what the Government Printing Office can offer. Several lessons emerged: that we must be open to diverse platforms for publications, and that because offices face unique challenges in data format and preservation, they must “leverage” the best formats, including open standards and open-source software for their particular needs (e.g., TEI, HTML, and oXygen).

The conference program is at <http://shfg.org/shfg/events/annual-meeting/current-program/>

Images are at <http://shfg.org/shfg/events/annual-meeting/2011-conference-photos/>



Digital publishing panel. *Left to right:* Susan Purdue (not shown), Jeffrey Turner, Maureen Whelan, Joe Wicentowski, Mandy Chalou, Mark Sgambettera, Marc Levitt



Controversial topics panel. *Left to right:* Jessie Kratz, Zack Wilske, Terrance Rucker, Eric Boyle, Kristina Giannotta



National Park Service panel. *Left to right:* Kelly Spradley-Kurowski, Lu Ann Jones, and Dean Herrin



Panel on legislative history. *Left to right:* Ray Smock, Director, Robert C. Byrd Center; Matthew Wasniewski, Historian, U.S. House of Representatives; Don Ritchie, Historian, U.S. Senate; Richard McCulley, historian, Center for Legislative Archives

## AWARDS

The Society for History in the Federal Government held its annual awards ceremony at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies on April 5. For more information on SHFG's awards program, go to <http://shfg.org/shfg/awards/awards-requirements/>

### HENRY ADAMS PRIZE

A. Scott Berg, *Wilson* (NY: Putnam, 2013)

### GEORGE PENDLETON PRIZE

Neil MacNeil and Richard A. Baker, *The American Senate: An Insider's History* (NY: Oxford University Press, 2013)

### CHARLES THOMSON PRIZE

Jennifer Ross-Nazzal, "You've Come a Long Way, Maybe: The First Six Women Astronauts and the Media," in *Spacefarers: Images of Astronauts and Cosmonauts in the Heroic Era of Spaceflight*, Michael Neufeld, ed. (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press, 2013)

### JAMES MADISON PRIZE

Hidetake Hirota, "The Moment of Transition: State Officials, the Federal Government, and the Formation of American Immigration Policy," *Journal of American History* 99:4 (March 2013), pp. 1092–1108

### JOHN WESLEY POWELL PRIZE

Japanese Garden Restoration, Manzanar National Historic Site (NPS, CA)  
and

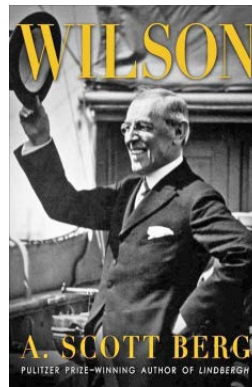
Career of Kirby Matthew, Region One Historic Preservation Team, USDA Forest Service (FS, MT)

### TRASK AWARD

Charlene Bangs Bickford



Awards Committee Chair Suzanne Junod announces the awards.



A. Scott Berg could not be present.

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/)



Dierdra MacNeil and Dick Baker accept the Pendelton Award.



Block 12 Mess Hall Garden at Manzanar National Historic Site, after restoration. Photo courtesy National Park Service



Charlene Bickford accepts the Trask Award from David McMillen.

## The History Professional

### An Interview with Samuel Rushay

*Samuel W. Rushay, Jr., is the supervisory archivist at the Harry S. Truman Library & Museum in Independence, Missouri. He earned his Ph.D. in history from Ohio University. Dr. Rushay helps coordinate the full range of library activities including reference work, records preservation and processing, and public access. He has served on the Nixon Presidential Materials Staff at College Park, Maryland, 1997–2007, as an archivist and supervisor in preparation of the materials for declassification, public access, and ultimate transfer to the Richard Nixon Library. Rushay has written several articles on President Truman, including “The Ike and Harry Thaw,” recently published in the journal Prologue.*



Interview by Benjamin Guterman

Samuel Rushay

#### **How did you come to work at the Truman Library in 1993?**

In spring 1993, I was a 26-year-old graduate student finishing my coursework for a Ph.D. in U.S. history at Ohio University. One day, I received an announcement of a job posting for an archivist position at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum. Colleagues and professors were encouraging, and teaching and law school, other options that I considered as career paths, didn't interest me as much as the prospect of working with historical collections as an archivist. One of my advisors at O.U. was Alonzo Hamby, a Truman scholar, who had done research at the Truman Library on numerous occasions. Dr. Hamby had glowing things to say about the Truman Library and its staff, and he graciously wrote me a letter of recommendation. Although I had no experience working at an archive, I was hired and enrolled in a National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) career development program in which I received on-the-job training as an archivist.

#### **When you first transferred to the Nixon Presidential Materials Staff at College Park, Maryland, in 1997, what were your initial duties?**

After four years as an archivist at the Truman Library, I moved to Maryland, where I reviewed Nixon White House tapes at the Nixon Presidential Materials Staff. Over the years, I also did reference work, conducted and transcribed oral history interviews, delivered public and outreach programs, and processed textual collections, including Henry Kissinger's National Security Council (NSC) Files and transcripts of telephone calls that he made as President Nixon's NSC advisor and secretary of state. I eventually became a subject-matter expert on the tapes.

#### **It seems that the Nixon project team had to create and devise procedures for dealing with the extraordinary demands for records processing and declassification imposed by Congress, the courts, and the research public. Can you discuss that?**

A few months after President Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974, he concluded an agreement with the head of the General Services Administration (GSA) that permitted the former president to destroy his tapes after a certain period of time. When

Congress got wind of this agreement, it abrogated it and passed the Presidential Records and Materials Preservation Act (PRMPA), which seized Nixon's tapes and papers and made them public property, and not Nixon's personal property.

The PRMPA and its implementing regulations govern the work of the Nixon Staff (now Nixon Presidential Library). They spell out review guidelines and restrictions involving matters such as privacy and national security, as well as content on the tapes that had to be returned to President Nixon and, after his death in 1994, to his heirs because it was purely personal or purely political. In 2007 the Nixon Foundation and NARA agreed to release tapes about politics and certain personal conversations.

Since 1980, NARA has had 16 separate openings of Nixon tapes (a complete list is located at <http://www.nixonlibrary.gov/forresearchers/find/tapes/releases.php>). Tapes opening schedules were established as a result of an agreement in the early 1990s that had been worked out between NARA, the Nixon Estate, and Public Citizen and historian Stanley Kutler, who brought suit against NARA to seek faster openings of tapes. The Nixon Estate hired an onsite reviewer who listened to the tapes we proposed to open in order to make sure we were not opening segments that were, in his judgment, property of Nixon's family.

#### **What was it like working with the Nixon White House tapes?**

It's been said that the Nixon tapes are the gift that keeps on giving in terms of new revelations about our 37th president. Every day, I put on my headphones and was transported back in time to the years 1971–73, when the tapes captured 3,700 hours of recorded conversations in phone calls and meetings between Nixon and various people. The work was challenging, rewarding, and collegial—I was part of a team of reviewers that screened literally every second of tape. We had to determine if the federal government could retain a discussion because it involved Nixon's constitutional and statutory duties as president, or whether we had to return it to the Nixon Estate because it was purely personal or purely political. From the tapes, I gained a greater understanding of Richard Nixon's mind, his relationships with people, his management style, and the workings of the

Nixon White House. I wrote about my experiences as a tape reviewer in an article that appeared in the fall 2007 issue of NARA's *Prologue* magazine, <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2007/fall/tapes.html>. Even now, almost seven years after I left the Nixon Staff, people still want to hear me discuss my work on the Nixon tapes.

***You then returned to the Truman Library in 2007. Could you generally describe the types and sources of records held at the library, aside from the Truman Executive Office records?***

The Truman Library is the repository for about 15 million pages of documents, about half of which are the Truman Papers. Harry Truman had a 50-year public career as a local judge (akin to a county commissioner), U.S. senator, vice president, president, and former president. Truman was a prolific writer, and the Truman Library's collections contain a rich quantity of his official and personal correspondence (including about 1,300 "Dear Bess" letters he wrote to his wife), memorandums, and diary-like entries. We are fortunate to have so many of his letters to Bess. (Unfortunately, less than 200 of Bess's letters to Harry survived.) Truman revealed his thoughts, feelings, and beliefs through his writings, which biographers over the years have mined to gain important insights and observations about Truman, his motivations, and his actions. The other roughly half of our collection consists of manuscript collections of over 500 family members, political associates, friends, and organizations that were associated with Truman, such as Dean Acheson, Secretary of State; Clark Clifford, Special Counsel to the President; and James Webb, who served as the director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) from 1961 to 1968, an important time in the nation's space program.

In addition to manuscripts, the Library's archives contain over 126,000 photographs, 563 oral history interview transcripts, 83 collections of federal records, 460,800 feet of motion picture film, 1,650 hours of video tape, 800 hours of audio tape, and 525 hours of audio discs. Through the work of staff, volunteers, interns, NARA's motion picture and sound labs, and vendors, we are working to preserve and make publicly available our collections, most of which are over 60 years old.

***With the ongoing declassification work at the Truman Library, what kinds of records and information have been released? How does that tie in with your participation in the Remote Archival Capture Program?***

Since 1995, the Truman Library has opened in full or in part about 50,000 pages of documents through systematic review by onsite staff, and by the Mandatory Review (MR) and Remote Archival Capture (RAC) programs, both of which are performed by federal agencies in Washington, DC. That may not seem like a lot of pages, but the Library's classified documents contain various and complex equities that often require repeated declassification review by one or more agencies. Most of these documents came from the Truman Papers, especially the President's

Secretary's Files, National Security Council Files, and the Psychological Strategy Board (PSB) Files. I traveled to Washington, DC, where I processed RAC returns at NARA's "Archives I" building.

***Interestingly, the Truman Library still acquires or accessions new collections, including a recent gift of 176 Truman family letters. Can you describe that collection and its historical value?***

In December 2012, we were alerted about an upcoming Sotheby's auction of original letters from Harry Truman to Bess W. Truman; letters from Bess Truman to her daughter, Margaret Truman; letters from Margaret to her father, Harry; letters from well-wishers to Margaret Truman as she embarked on a singing career; and other interesting items. There was a total of 176 letters and other items (e.g., clippings, postcards, telegrams, programs, greeting cards, and invitations), totaling approximately 450 pages. Almost all of these documents are dated 1940–1961.

Flora K. Bloom, president of Elliott Galleries of New York City, had purchased these materials at the estate sale of Margaret Truman Daniel, who died in 2008. Ms. Bloom agreed to donate these materials to us; for this, the Library is grateful. By amazing coincidence, as a child, Ms. Bloom had written a letter to President Truman, who responded to her. Among the interesting gems we found was an August 1946 letter in which Margaret Truman thanked her father for the "big piece of green lettuce" that she received upon graduating from George Washington University. A notation (perhaps by HST) about the \$10,000 gift is on the envelope! We also found the oath of office that Harry Truman read when he was sworn in as president on April 12, 1945, and a letter that 8-year-old Bess Wallace wrote to her Aunt Maud in 1893.

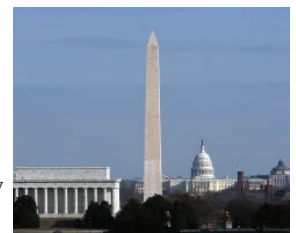
### Join H-Fed Hist

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Job guide • Discussion logs

### 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)



***With the popularity of Presidential libraries for visitors, what major public programs does the Truman Library offer?***

To enhance our visitors' experience, the Library offers public programs on the Second Saturday of every month. Dubbed "Talkin' Truman," these programs are given by archives staff and by non-NARA guests, who discuss various aspects of Truman's life and career, and the community in which he lived, Independence, MO. For example, in January 2014, I gave a Talkin' Truman program about spies during the early Cold War period.

The Library also cooperates with local partners to bring in prominent national speakers. More events are listed in our calendar at <http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/events/>.

***Your work with the City's of Independence's Heritage Commission sounds like a perfect way to apply historical work to public planning. What have you been able to contribute there?***

I really enjoy my work on the Heritage Commission, on which I have served as the Truman Library's ex officio representative since 2009. The Heritage Commission reviews requests for exterior alterations, new construction, relocations, and demolitions of historic homes and other properties located within designated historic or conservation districts in the City of Independence.

As a voting member, I have taken part in many interesting matters. I will mention two: the rewriting of the City's Historic Preservation Design Guidelines and the expansion of the City's National Historic Landmark (NHL) district. The design guidelines give direction to home, business, and other property owners on how to restore windows, doors, roofs, and other features of their properties. The City's NHL district, which was established in 1971, was expanded from 216 structures, including the Truman Home, to 567 buildings. The expansion meant that more owners of commercial and residences could benefit from federal and state tax credits for renovations made to their properties. I am proud to have lent my support to that successful effort.

***The Truman Library has provided impressive online access to its collections, with finding aids and selected digital scans, as for example in the Dean Acheson papers. What plans are there for expanding such access?***

In 2013, we accomplished an important goal: the digitization of memoranda of conversations that Dean Acheson made while secretary of state, 1949–53. Memoranda documenting his meetings are now available online in a searchable database at [http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/achesonmemos/index.php](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/achesonmemos/index.php). The papers of many other Truman officials and associates have also been listed or posted online.

One of most important projects this year will be to provide online access to Harry Truman's nearly 1,300 letters to Bess Truman. Almost two hundred letters are on our website at <http://www.trumanlibrary.org/hstpaper/fbpa.htm#subseries1-1>.

## 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)

We expect to have all of the pre-marriage correspondence (through 1919) online by the summer of 2014.

Our online photograph database currently contains over 39,000 photos and photographic information available at <http://www.trumanlibrary.org/photographs/index.php>. About 31 percent of our total photo collection is now available online. Partnerships with the William T. Kemper Foundation and the Kansas City Public Library have helped immensely with preservation and digitization projects.

***In your experience over the years, what are some important insights you've gained into Truman the man and president?***

The more I learn about Harry Truman, the more appreciation I gain for his greatness as a man and as a president. Truman emerged from humble origins to become one of this nation's greatest presidents. In his nearly eight years as president, from 1945 to 1953, Truman created institutions such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Department of Defense, and the Central Intelligence Agency, that helped win the Cold War and that have endured to this day. Truman's decisions concerning matters such as the end of World War II against Japan, the Middle East, and the Korean War reflected his integrity and his conviction that he was acting in the best interests of the United States.

Truman was fundamentally a decent man who enjoyed people, sympathized with their struggles, and did what he could to improve their communities, working conditions, and the world in which they lived. Although secure in himself and who he was, he had faults, made mistakes, and was capable of acts of greatness and pettiness. He was an interesting person, and he served as president during a pivotal time in American and world history.

From opening of the Bess Truman Papers and additional Harry Truman Papers, we have learned that the Trumans were quite well off financially. Truman never became rich as a farmer, as a businessman, or as a politician before becoming president. Truman's financial records show, however, that he amassed considerable savings while president, made a lot of money from the sale of his family's farm, and earned a modest \$35,000 from his memoirs. On his income tax return from 1959, for example, the Trumans reported a gross net income of \$160,566 (the equivalent to over \$1.2 million in 2013). According to a memo that Harry Truman wrote by hand in late 1953, the ex-president estimated his worth to be about \$750,000 (over \$6 million in 2013).

## Federal History Office Profile

The *Federalist* profiles a different history office in each issue. Please direct texts, comments, and inquiries to the editor: [benjamin.guterman@shfg.org](mailto:benjamin.guterman@shfg.org)

# The Air Force Historical Research Agency

Mary D. Dysart

The Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA), a Field Operating Agency of the United States Air Force, is located at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. It operates under the oversight of the Director, Air Force History and Museums Policies and Programs. It serves as the Air Force's central historical repository, furnishing information throughout the Air Force and to other agencies, institutions, and individuals. It is responsible for collecting, organizing, and disseminating USAF and air power-related history; providing research services; compiling and approving organizational lineage, honors, and heraldry actions; and supporting wartime and contingency operations.

Early in 1942, when U.S. military planners sought to examine World War I records, they found them sorely lacking. Therefore, on March 4, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt directed that a Committee on Records of War Administration be established to “[preserve] for those who come after us an accurate and objective account of our present experience.”<sup>1</sup> The Adjutant General then instructed each of the commanders of the Army's three major commands—Army Ground Forces, Army Air Forces (AAF), and Services of Supply—to appoint historical officers and supply them with the necessary staff to “record the administrative activities of their respective headquarters during the current war.”<sup>2</sup> The Historical Branch, established in the Headquarters U.S. Army Air Forces Office of the Assistant Chief of Air Staff, A-2 (Intelligence), supervised the preparation of histories of AAF units, made them available for AAF use, and subject to release restrictions, allowed access to other government entities, scholars, and the general public. By February 1943, the Historical Division Archives, located in Washington, DC, had begun to collect, classify, and catalog material concerning the activity of AAF units. As World War II drew to a close, the Historical Division was redesignated as the AAF Historical Office and assigned to the office of the Secretary of the Air Staff. After the National Security Act of 1947 established the United States Air Force (USAF) as a separate service, the Air Historical Office was reassigned to Air University, which was at that time an Air Force Major Command headquartered at Maxwell AFB. In September 1949, the Air Historical Office and its Archives moved from Washington, DC, to Maxwell, where it continued operations under various names and organizational structures until the inactivation of Air University as a separate command in 1978. AFHRA's predecessor organization was briefly assigned



to Air Training Command. It was designated as a USAF Direct Reporting Unit in 1979 and as a Field Operating Agency in February 1991. On September 1, 1991, it was redesignated Headquarters, Air Force Historical Research Agency.

AFHRA has thus remained the custodian of the documents entrusted to its predecessor organizations in the aftermath of World War II and of the histories and other materials subsequently added to its holdings. These documents serve as source materials for the Agency historians and archivists who provide historical services to Air Force organizations around the world and answer requests for information from the Air Force, government agencies, and the general public. They comprise a resource for scholars and other researchers and support professional military education programs at Air University. They are used to provide background material to inform the decision-making process at the highest levels of government, to support veterans, and to illuminate the actions and decisions of the air arm for the general public.

The Air Force Historical Research Agency's holdings comprise more than 70 million pages representing the world's largest and most valuable organized collection of documents concerning U.S. military aviation. Approximately 1,000 veterans, scholars, and members of the general public visit the Agency's reading rooms each year, and over 4,400 documents are available on AFHRA's public web page. AFHRA employees answer an average of over 7,000 requests for information annually from Air Force personnel, the Department of Defense and other government agencies, Congress, veterans, and individuals from around the world each year. Documents held by AFHRA are microfilmed or digitized, and uncontrolled unclassified copies are available for sale to the public.

The majority of AFHRA's holdings consist of unit histories that chronicle U.S. air forces' operations and activities in war and peace from WWI to the present day. These materials provide the data and historical perspective that support the planning and decision-making process throughout the Air Force. These records are in constant use, and they often contain the answer to complex problems. For example, records and publications from the inactivated Strategic Air Command provided information vital to the stand-up of Air Force Global Strike Command, and researchers use World War II mission reports to determine the location of unexploded ordnance before initiating construction in Germany. AFHRA also maintains the organizational history of Air Force units and establishments, determines their lineage and honors, and administers Air Force organizational emblems. These records inform Air Force-wide organizational decisions and promote esprit de corps and knowledge of their heritage among Airmen.

AFHRA houses a wide variety of specialized collections. Its 786 groupings of personal papers include those of pioneers in flight, significant Air Force leaders and policymakers, and others who contributed to the evolution of American military aviation. In addition the Agency maintains approximately 100 Air Force Persons of Exceptional Prominence (PEP) Records Collections. It comprises more than 2,600 oral history interviews concerning matters of importance to the air forces dating from the 1920s, the Vietnam War, and the development and acquisition of Air Force weapons systems. Interviewees include individuals who led the Army Air Forces in the years before and during World War II and, beginning in 1976, former Secretaries of the Air Force, Chiefs of Staff, Major Command Commanders and Commanders-in-Chief, and the Chief Master Sergeants of the Air Force. The collection also contains interviews with personnel involved in Air Force operations abroad conducted by deployed historians, and it includes a large number of interviews concerning U.S. military operations carried out in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The extensive aircraft records held at AFHRA contain abundant information about the history of individual aircraft and the circumstances under which they were retired from the Air Force inventory. The Agency's holdings include individual aircraft record cards, aircraft accident reports dated prior to 1956, and World War II missing air crew and escape and evasion reports. A treasure trove for hobbyists, authors, and historians, these records, in combination with the corresponding unit histories, are used today by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command to locate and recover human remains from prior conflicts.

AFHRA's leadership and staff continuously seek new opportunities to preserve Air Force history and to make more resources available to their customers. The Agency has collaborated with the Air Combat Command Cultural Resources office to establish and maintain a unique collection of architectural drawings for Air Force facilities of high historical mission importance or those that represent notable architectural and engineering

### **Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA)**

600 Chennault Circle  
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

**Director:** Dr. Charles F. O'Connell, Jr.

**Staff :** 45

**Office Activities and Responsibilities:** AFHRA's Accessions Division oversees the addition of incoming material to the Agency's collection and creates metadata for Inferential Retrieval and Indexing System (IRIS), AFHRA's finding aid. The Archives Division answers requests for historical information from government agencies and the public. Inquiries may be submitted to *afhra.news@us.af.mil* or the address above. The Archives Division also operates classified and unclassified reading rooms to provide patrons with access to source materials and makes available unclassified, unrestricted materials in the Agency's collection for purchase on CD. The Organizational History Division determines the lineage and honors of Air Force organizations and prepares and maintains lineage and honors histories of selected organizations. It verifies the aerial victory credits for members of the Air Force and its antecedents, and maintains the organizational records of Air Force units and establishments. It maintains the records of Air Force organizational emblems and flags; reviews, approves, and processes requests for new and revised emblems; and provides Air Force guidance on heraldry. The Oral History Division conducts and transcribes oral history interviews of current and former Air Force leaders and other knowledgeable people. The Field Support Division prepares, conducts, and maintains courses of instruction to meet objectives identified by the Air Force History and Museums Program (AFHMP) and provides field support to AFHMP personnel worldwide. AFHRA personnel also prepare books, monographs, research reports, studies, document collections, bibliographies and other historical works about the Air Force and military aviation and provide support to contingency operations.

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

Link to Air Force Historical Research Agency's web site:

*<http://www.afhra.af.mil/index.asp>*

This site provides links to organizational records, studies, historical documents, timelines, emblems, photographs, and aerial victory credits.

#### **Contact:**

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Web Site: *<http://www.afhra.af.mil/index.asp>*

achievement. When completed, the collection will comprise from 25,000 to 28,000 drawings dated primarily from 1938 through 1972 and include very rare or significant structures of the Army Air Corps and the Army Air Forces. This collection will be of great benefit to engineers and architectural historians.

Seventy years ago, Brigadier General Lawrence S. Kuter charged the AAF director of Organizational Planning to establish an Air Staff Historical Section to record the service's history "while it is hot."<sup>3</sup> Those histories, crafted in the heat of battle, formed the basis for the Archives' collection—records selected with care by professionals dedicated to preserving a permanent history of the Army Air Forces. The AAF Historical Division and its successor organizations thus maintained the Air Force's institutional memory, enabling it to prevail in current operations and plan for future ones. That legacy now belongs to the Air Force Historical Research Agency, which continues to collect, preserve, and make available those unparalleled documents.

## International Research Portal

International research in the theft and restitution of Nazi-era cultural property continues largely because of the unprecedented extent of the Nazis' looting that affected all of Europe, and the great complexity and volume of remaining records. The stolen property included paintings, antiquities, statues, books, archival documents, and silver and gold. And the records for tracing thefts and for determining provenance include Nazi records, governmental records from 1933 onwards, inventories of recovered artworks, research records of the U.S. Collecting Points, post-war claims records, and auction house and art dealer records. The records are scattered in numerous repositories. The National Archives (NARA) contributed immensely through its 10-year microfilming project of its records related to Holocaust-era assets. NARA records cover activities of several U.S. government agencies that worked to recover, identify, and restitute looted materials, including the OSS & U.S. occupation forces (about 2.3 million pages). They also contain captured German records, such as Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) card file albums, and related photographs. Researchers now have an invaluable tool that allows them to review records inventories for 18 international collections through a single web page, the International Research Portal for Records Related to Nazi-Era Cultural Property: [www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/international-resources](http://www.archives.gov/research/holocaust/international-resources) This improved access begins to fulfill resolutions from the 1998 Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, the 2000 Vilnius Forum Declaration, and the 2009 Terezin Declaration. Readers can search participating institutions—e.g., U.S. National Archives, National Archives of the United Kingdom, Bundesarchiv (The Federal Archives of Germany), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Landesarchiv Berlin (Berlin State Archive), and others. The

## Endnotes

- 1 Art (U), William C. Binkley, "Two World Wars and American Historical Scholarship," *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review* 33, no. 1 (June 1946), 18, available at <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1896733> (Oct 20, 2011).
- 2 AG letter (U), MG J. A. Ulio, "The Adjutant General," to Commanding Generals Army Ground Forces, Army Air Forces, and Services of Supply, "Appointment of Historical Officers," July 15, 1942, IRIS #116436.
- 3 Directive (U), Brig. Gen. Lawrence S. Kuter, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, [Army Air Force Historical Program], July 19, 1942, quoted in Article (U), Lt. Col. Clanton W. Williams, Acting Chief, Historical Division, AC/AS, Intelligence, "Army Air Force Historical Program," n. d., IRIS #116419.



An affidavit of Prince Lubomirski claiming ownership of stolen Dürer drawings, Geneva, July 1948 (National Archives)

Portal "enables families to research their losses; provenance researchers to locate important documentation; and historians to study newly accessible materials on the history of this period." The listings provide access to descriptions of records, finding aids, and often, digitized records.

## From the Archives The Directory of Federal Historical Programs and Activities

Chas Downs

One major need that the Society for History in the Federal Government sought to address shortly after its founding was for a directory of federal history programs. The National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (NCC) had already produced a short directory. The SHFG was determined to build on this earlier publication in conjunction with the NCC and the American Historical Association (AHA). Jack Holl, SHFG's first president, asked Roger Anders, of the Department of Energy History Office, to head a directory committee. Anders recruited several SHFG members for the committee: William Dudley, Leslie Grover, Richard Hewlett, Dennis Roth, and David Trask. They started in the summer of 1980, sending out questionnaires and compiling data. The Federal history community generally responded favorably, although there were some misgivings, especially from intelligence agencies.

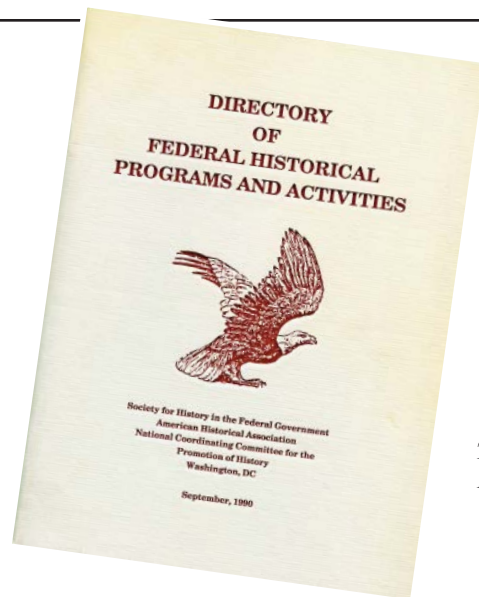


Roger Anders

Anders's major obstacle was the cost of publishing the directory. Society Treasurer Dudley made it clear that the SHFG could not afford what would have been thousands of dollars for printing. Wishing to avoid having to photocopy the directory, Hewlett and Trask suggested asking the AHA for help, even though that organization had not been a supporter of the Society. When Jack Holl and Anders approached the AHA's Mack Thompson, he agreed to pay \$2000 of the estimated \$3000 publishing cost for 1,500 copies. In exchange the AHA would get 1,000 copies.

*The Federalist* followed the directory's progress, noting that 241 questionnaires were sent out and 93 returned, with more expected. Publication was expected in early 1981. The next issue noted that the draft was completed, and the third issue listed the director and committee members, and noted that it was to be updated every two years, later changed to every three years.

The first edition of the directory came out on schedule in 1981, consisting of 63 pages covering 140 entries. The SHFG received its 500 copies, which were distributed to the membership, with some held for new members, and 50 set aside to sell. It was next updated in 1984, with Roth as committee chair, and contained 86 pages. Anders was again chair for the third edition in 1987, which totaled 84 pages, and for the



The cover of the 1990 Directory

fourth edition in 1990, at 87 pages. The 1994 edition was coordinated by Shelly Davis, and had 86 pages. In 1998, under



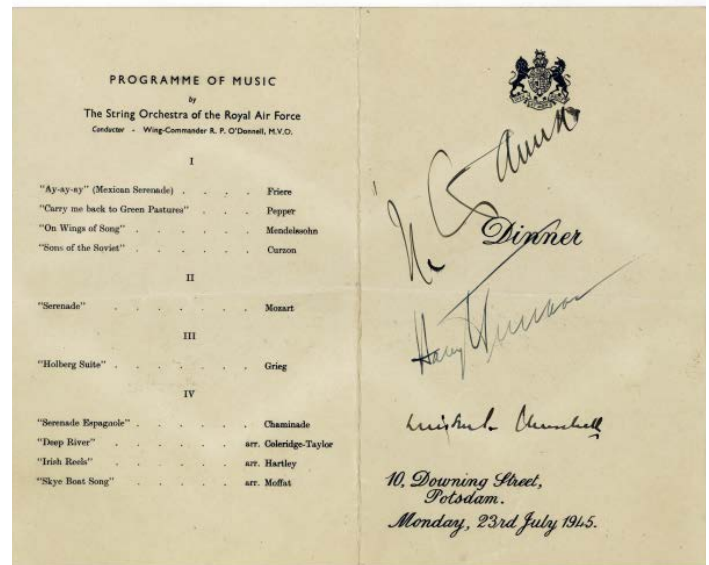
Shelly Davis

Mary Y. Marik, the size of the directory increased to 111 pages. The seventh edition, the final paper directory, was enlarged and published in 2003 under the coordination and editorship of Sharon Thibodeau, and consisted of 102 pages with 554 entries. It was dedicated to founding SHFG member Paul J. Sheips, who died the previous year.

The structure of the directory evolved over the years, but it generally had a section with the names and telephone numbers of individual history staff members, as well as a section providing information on the organization and activities of the offices. Some larger organizations were reluctant to be included because they feared becoming targets for budget cuts, and did not want to list contractors for the same reason. Eventually these issues were resolved. Eventually, retirees and unaffiliated members were also included. The directory was not reissued until 2010, when it was updated and posted on the SHFG website. See current the current directory at <http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/directory-of-history-offices/> This version has five parts, one each for the historical programs in the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch, Federal Historical Resources, and Documentary Projects Related to Federal History. An Information Form is available online to register or update directory entries. Paper copies of the directory were always essential reference tools for the federal history community; now with the directory on the Web, the most up-to-date version is readily and widely available to all. To learn more about the SHFG Archives, contact Chas Downs at [chasdowns@verizon.net](mailto:chasdowns@verizon.net)

## “Making Their Mark: Stories Through Signatures” At the National Archives

This new exhibit features a fascinating selection of signed documents from the National Archives’ holdings to illustrate the broad sweep of U.S. history. We can marvel at the actual signatures on these documents, both for their styles and diversity, but quickly become captivated by what they represent, by the dramatic stories they reveal. These are stories of leaders and citizens, of peace and war, of enslavement and freedom. Just to list a few: George Washington’s letter preceding his resignation to the Continental Congress; a dinner menu from Potsdam signed by Truman, Stalin, Churchill, and others; a Frederick Douglass letter to Lincoln; a note from the sons of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg asking that their parents’ lives be spared; a note from a Japanese American in 1942 expressing how the loss of “constitutional rights” has affected his loyalty; and Selective Service cards for famous individuals, including Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington. The exhibit also features a few artifacts and images of “signature” styles, such as Jacqueline Kennedy’s pillbox hat and Franklin Roosevelt’s Fedora. Curator: Jennifer N. Johnson. The exhibit runs through January 5, 2015, in the Lawrence F. O’Brien Gallery in Washington, DC. Download the ebook at <http://www.archives.gov/publications/ebooks/>



Dinner program from Potsdam conference, July 23, 1945

## The CIA and the Crisis of Oversight

John Prados’s talk on October 28, 2013, at the Wilson Center’s Washington History Seminar in Washington, DC, went to the core of our present concerns with the extent and supervision of the federal government’s intelligence gathering activities in our republican society. The talk and discussion touched on current revelations about National Security Agency programs but primarily focused on the CIA, the subject of his most recent book, *The Family Jewels: The CIA, Secrecy, and Presidential Power* (University of Texas Press, 2013). Prados also works with the National Security Archive at George Washington University.

The central problem, as he succinctly outlined it, has been the inability of congressional oversight to both fully comprehend CIA activities and penetrate that agency’s “umbrella” of secrecy. The agency regularly uses existing laws to protect specific information, documents, and programs from questioning. The shielding of such information by both intelligence agencies and the president is intentional, he said, and goes back to the 1970s. A 1974 *New York Times* article uncovered the CIA’s “family jewels,” or secrets, revealing abuses of detainees. After investigations, reforms for domestic spying came with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978. The 1980s and ’90s brought news of renditions black sites, surveillance of Americans, and assassinations. Prados stated that after such revelations the

White House “circled the wagons” and usually “threw the agencies to the wolves.” President Ford set up a commission with limited powers. And congressional committees lacked the resources or personnel to fully understand agencies’ activities and demand full disclosure.

Using the 1949 CIA Act, for example, the CIA can widely interpret its right to withhold documents to protect sources and methods. Starting in the George W. Bush era, the CIA was required to brief a “gang of eight” in Congress, but they were sworn to secrecy. In these ways and more, the congressional intelligence committees are at a perpetual disadvantage.

As threatening as these unchecked intelligence programs can be, how can we begin to control the range of intelligence activities? Prados urges that we establish a continuously functioning, extra-congressional investigatory body—with the kind of independence of the Federal Reserve Board—so that we maintain constant supervision, not solely in moments of crisis. It would have subpoena power over documents and people. Such review



John Prados

## Employment Notes

**Listing: Historian**, Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary of the Interior. This position is located in the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) in Washington, D.C.

Job Announcement Number: DB-14-PQ1095082 (DEU)  
 Series & Grade: GS-0170-13 Full Time - Permanent  
 Open Period: April 10 to May 2, 2014  
 Apply [USAJobs.gov](http://USAJobs.gov)

*Notes on specialized requirements for federal positions. See USAJobs.gov for more information and specific job listings.*

- **Archaeologist** (GS-0193-09/11). **Bureau of Land Management**, requires experience, as in “assisting with the planning & implementation of archeological research projects,” but can combine with appropriate graduate education “necessary to perform archaeologist duties.” <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en.html>
- **Museum Technician (General)** (GS-1016-07). **National Park Service**, Department of the Interior—requires experience to identify, label, and prepare objects for storage or display, and prepare, maintain, and organize curatorial records. Can combine with one year of graduate-level education of related coursework in art, history, museum studies, scientific subjects, or related fields.
- **Museum Curator (Cultural and Linguistic Revitalization)** (GS-1015-13). **Smithsonian Institution**—Education (two years graduate studies) and experience (in exhibitions, review of research proposals, manuscripts, or published materials) may be combined to meet the basic qualifications.
- **Editor** (AD-1082/1083-11/13). **Congressional Budget Office**, Legislative Branch, experience editing professional publications, with technical subjects and quantitative information, and providing writing assistance.
- **Library Technician** (GG-1411-09). **U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command**, Department of the Army, experience utilizing library/information services rules, procedures, and operations; and experience using library-specific software.
- **Pathways, Recent Graduates Program**. For individuals who have recently graduated from qualifying educational institutions or programs, a dynamic, career development program. Must apply within two years of degree or certificate completion. <https://www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads>

and even reevaluation of intelligence agencies is essential, he reasons, because their purposes and operations change over time.

Such a committee sounds ideal, but as the evening’s discussion suggested, creation of a nonpartisan and empowered committee would face serious obstacles, primarily political. Would a divided Congress agree to yield much of its authority, and how would members be chosen? And many argue for protection of CIA secrecy. The prospects of this solution seem dim for the near future; incremental reforms seem more likely. And another problem has gained urgency: can investigation and supervision of intelligence work keep up with rapidly advancing surveillance technology and methodologies that create new political and moral dilemmas?

— Benjamin Guterman

## FOIA MATTERS

Old records don’t always mean releasable records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In most cases, agencies will withhold from release information such as names, addresses, dates of birth, places of birth, and employment history, among other information, under FOIA Exemption 6 (and possibly Exemption 7(C) if the information is in law enforcement records).

In many but not all cases, some of the protections provided under these exemptions no longer apply after a person’s death. The fact that death breathes new life into some records is great news for researchers. But it’s important to keep in mind that it’s generally incumbent upon the requester to prove that the subject of a record is deceased.

What’s considered acceptable proof of death may vary by agency; however, most agencies will accept:

- a death certificate
- an obituary or newspaper article; or
- a police report.

It’s a good idea to include such proof with your initial request as it will speed the agency’s processing of your request.

*One important caveat:* in order to provide proof of death for third parties mentioned in records, you must be able to identify those third parties. In some cases, you may be familiar enough with a subject that you have a pretty good idea who is mentioned in the records.

If not, some additional research may help you identify for whom you will need to provide proof of death. If this is still not an option, keep in mind that most agencies assume that an individual named in records is deceased if a certain amount of time has passed since his or her birth; in most cases, this is 100 years.

**OGIS**  
 Office of Government  
 Information Services

Need FOIA assistance? The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) is here to help. Created by Congress in 2007 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.

## Explorations

**DIPLOMATIC HISTORY** — Observers of U.S. operations in the Middle East during the last two decades frequently note the tendency for prolonged military occupations to exacerbate tensions between American civil and military administrators. Alan McPherson has written a study of military occupations in Latin America during the 1920s and 30s that lends insight into civil-military relations in our century. Focusing on the bureaucratic infighting that took place between the Department of State and the Navy during military occupations in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and Haiti, McPherson finds that those departmental disputes “evinced a continuing institutional and cultural gap” that perpetually delayed successful government functioning and the withdrawal of military forces. McPherson writes with pertinence that the withdrawal of an occupation force represents “especially meaningful tests of civil-military relations in a democracy because they underscore not only the military’s tendency to take over political decisions when it is on the ground but also State’s pressure from public opinion, domestic politics, and diplomacy with allies.”

In comparison, at the beginning of the 20th century, U.S. Navy personnel were professionalized far earlier than the diplomatic corps, and were usually better informed about conditions in the countries they occupied. State, however, was generally more sensitive to U.S. and world opinion, and could better navigate the political aspects of military occupations. McPherson argues that “pivotal change” occurred in the 1920s, as State became more professionalized under the Rogers Act of 1924, and political figures in the White House and Congress sought to provide more direction during occupations and withdrawals. Members of the military and State also developed divergent views over whether the Monroe Doctrine and Social Darwinism justified military occupations in Latin America.

State played an integral part in ending the Navy’s occupation of the Dominican Republic in 1924. In the occupations of Nicaragua and Haiti, State proved more adept at navigating the rapids of U.S. public opinion and shoals of politics than their Navy counterparts. McPherson writes that State’s role in the conclusion of these military occupations signaled “a long-term shift toward professionalism at State, toward interdepartmental collaboration, and toward the primacy of policy over improvisation.” The need to coordinate civil and military policymakers with each other and the White House eventually led to the creation of the National Security Council in 1947. McPherson also concludes that these case studies demonstrate the importance of presidential leadership during occupations, since “only the person who is head of state as well as commander and chief can truly intervene forcefully in a dispute among his departments and lead the way to the end of an occupation.” This article is a reminder that the tensions between hidebound civil and military

occupational authorities are longstanding ones, and that interdepartmental collaboration improves policy outcomes. — “Lid Sitters and Prestige Seekers: The U.S. Navy versus the State Department and the End of U.S. Occupations,” *The Journal of Military History* 78:1 (January 2014): 73–99.

—Thomas I. Faith

**DIGITAL HISTORY** — On December 4, 2013, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum launched FRANKLIN, a new virtual research room and digital repository. FRANKLIN is populated with more than 350,000 pages of archival documents, 2,000 historical photographs, archival finding aids, and descriptions of collections that are not yet digitized. They are keyword searchable, but also can be browsed by box and folder “just as you could if you came to the Library’s research room in-person.” So far, the digitized collection includes FDR’s Map Room Papers, FDR’s President’s Secretary’s File, Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations, and Presidential Press Conference transcripts, along with selected Eleanor Roosevelt correspondence and several smaller tranches of high-demand archival materials. The FDR Library hopes to continue digitizing its holdings, and says that “we look forward to posting many more digital collections to this database over the coming years.” FRANKLIN is the result of collaboration between public, non-profit, and corporate partners including the Roosevelt Library, National Archives, Roosevelt Institute, Marist College, and IBM, and in the future, its documents will also be available through the National Archives Online Public Access (OPA) catalog. This virtual research room resource will dramatically improve access to the materials of the FDR Library, allowing users to read Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt’s New Deal and wartime correspondence with foreign leaders, government administrators, and regular Americans, and view public domain images from the collection on the World Wide Web. As archival repositories everywhere continue to expand access to their collections through digitization, it is hoped that they will move in the direction of providing

**FRANKLIN** is a virtual research room and digital repository that provides free and open access to the digitized collections of the Roosevelt Library—no entrance, anywhere in the world. Whether you are a lover of history, a student making an online project, or a scholar, **FRANKLIN** allows you to keyword search for archival documents, photographs and to search, browse, and view online files, just as you could if you came to the Library's research room in person. Now available online are some of the most important documents of the twentieth century — primary source documents of U.S. President and Eleanor Roosevelt's reign: tracing the nation through the Great Depression and World War II.



online researchers with the ability to browse entire boxes and folders as FRANKLIN has done. See it at <http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/archives/collections/franklin/>

—Thomas I. Faith

**CONGRESSIONAL HISTORY** — Our executive and legislative branches are in contention by design. In his recent article, Jason A. MacDonald builds upon his previous research into how Congress often uses one specific method to restrict executive agencies in their execution of the laws. He explores congressional use of “limitation riders” in appropriation bills—legislative prohibitions against agency use of funds for executing specified regulations or policies. In that way, Congress can “constrain how agencies shape regulations.” The riders are, he argues, an annual, renewable congressional policy-making tool. In one example, Congress passed a FY 2000 appropriations bill with a rider that prevented the Environmental Protection Agency from assessing fees on pesticide manufacturers to cover the increasing costs of processing pesticide tests. Congress included the same rider in bills for the following three years, but there was no such rider in FY 2005 because Congress then passed a law specifying its own fee schedule.

MacDonald takes a deeper look at the duration and renewal of these riders. Are they renewed more often when there is “divided” political control between Congress and the executive office, or are they reduced in number with “unified” control? He uses a statistical Cox regression method to assess the probability that the riders will be eliminated in a given year. He looks at 105 cases of riders between 1989 and 2009, recording “observations” of their renewals. He conducts four trials using several control variables, such as if the rider “forbids a regulation” mandated under an existing law—an attempt to stall the law. While the findings are strongly suggestive, they are not conclusive. MacDonald offers some explanation. He finds that “there is a 26% decrease in the probability of elimination [of a rider] if control of Congress and the White House under that configuration [of divided government] remains unchanged.” And, in the case of a switch to unified government, he finds that the probability that limitation riders are eliminated is 54% or 72%, depending on which of his models is selected. This is a complex investigation, with quite dense statistical explanations, but the study helps us begin to understand the strategy of and motivation behind these legislative maneuvers.

MacDonald cautions that we need deeper investigation into the many variations in the rider process. For example, he observes that Congress often negotiates with the executive over policy, and that may translate into a compromise, “obviating the necessity of reenacting the limitation rider.” His example of President George Bush’s disagreement with a Republican Congress in 2002 over inspection standards for Mexican trucks under NAFTA shows how Congress’s use of a rider can put pressure on a president and improve its negotiating power. Overall, MacDonald’s work reveals to us a more expansive and dynamic operative definition of

the power of the purse, one through which Congress often exercises leverage over the executive and shapes policies. — *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 43, no. 3 (September), 523–537.

— Benjamin Guterman

**MUSEUM EXHIBITS** — Perspective is critical in understanding the changes in history-related museum exhibits in recent decades and the increased scrutiny they have faced. We gain valuable, succinct insights from a March 20, 2014, *New York Times* article by columnist Edward Rothstein, as part of his “critical rounds” to exhibits. He evaluates both federal and private museums, domestic and international, and finds that history, “the richest, fullest story we can tell about ourselves and our past—is beyond the reach of most.” Thus, the Brooklyn Historical Society’s exhibit on slavery is simplified and short on detail. The National Archives’ “Record of Rights” focuses too heavily on American failures to guarantee rights, not balancing the story with successes in human rights and social progress, thus skewing the historical record. The Anne Frank Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles “ends with bland homilies about making the world a better place,” rather than fully confronting the causes of the Holocaust. There are problems, he notes, with Jewish history in Berlin, Japanese American history in Wyoming, the Civil War in the South, and world cultural history in Paris. He does commend several exhibits at the New-York Historical Society as “sounding multiple themes.”

What changed in museums? Historical societies have gone from celebrating and documenting places to telling histories as part of a larger revisionist trend that began with the 1960s. Museums began undertaking reassessments of our traditional conceptions of the past by focusing on social history, on neglected segments of our population. These perspectives were slow in coming to museums, but they have recently spurred the establishment of sites based on identity: for Jewish Americans, African Americans, Native Americans, Japanese Americans, and others. Such a focus has produced “a kaleidoscope of special perspectives,” often self-celebratory, that tends to simplify history. And such views can distort history, with the most problematic, he contends, being the National Museum of the American Indian. The NMAI has “stripped” the variations among tribes and their complexity, and joined their stories “in service to a morality play.”

Other issues at museums involve flawed vision or no vision, simplification, or self-promotion. The central problem of the revisionist approach at present, he concludes, is its “constricted perspective, unable to see things whole.” And his solution is one that many have called for: a return to “complexity.” Yet that goal of aiming for a more inclusive and balanced story is inherently more difficult and not without its own controversy, as the Enola Gay exhibit demonstrated years ago. Yet, such efforts can return us to a more responsible view of history, one with multiple claims on truth, necessarily open to conversation and reinterpretation.

— Benjamin Guterman

## Making History

### Army Historical Foundation

The Spring 2014 issue of *On Point: The Journal of Army History* is available. Articles include “Artwork of Ludwig Mactarian”; “Three Days in March: El Paso, the U.S. Army, and the Escobar Revolution of 1929,” by Lt. Col. G. Alan Knight; “The PGM-11 Redstone Missile,” by Matthew J. Seelinger; “Major General Lewis “Lew” Wallace,” by Nick McGrath; “The 31st Infantry Regiment,” by Patrick Feng; “The John B. Mahaffey Museum Complex, Fort Leonard, Missouri,” by Andrew P. Marks; “In the Spirit of Reconciliation,” by Eileen Mattei; and “Camp Russell A. Alger, Falls Church, Virginia,” Eric Anderson.

### Department of the Interior

The Interior Museum opened a new exhibit on April 8 titled “POSTERity: WPA’s Art Legacy and America’s Public Lands.” Featured are nearly 50 classic posters associated with 36 national parks, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the Interior Museum. These were produced by artists through the Works Progress Administration (WPA), 1938–1941. See <http://www.doi.gov/interiormuseum/posterity.cfm>

### Department of State

The Office of the Historian at the Department of State has created a digital historian position. The digital historian is responsible for advising and guiding the Department Historian and office management team in determining the appropriate application of digital technology in achieving office goals and objectives and directing its implementation. They are responsible for devising, implementing and overseeing the execution of a long-term plan for digital publication, archiving, and digital dissemination of the *Foreign Relations of the United States* series, primarily through <http://history.state.gov/>.

The Office of the Historian has released FRUS, 1977–1980, Volume XXI, *Cyprus; Turkey; Greece*. This volume is part of a Foreign Relations subseries that documents the most important foreign policy issues of the Jimmy Carter administration. The focus of this volume is on U.S. policy towards the Eastern Mediterranean region. Copies of the volume will be available for purchase from the U.S. Government Printing Office online at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov> (GPO S/N 044-000-02663-5; ISBN 978-0-16-092305-0), or by calling toll-free 1-866-512-1800 (D.C. area 202-512-1800). For further information, contact [history@state.gov](mailto:history@state.gov).

### History Associates Incorporated

History Associates has appointed Mark Evans as Director of Digital Archives. He will oversee expanded archival services that include collection and digital archives assessments, program development advice, and technology implementation recommendations. Mr. Evans joins the company after a long tenure at Tessella, an international software services company, where he played a key role in developing, marketing, and delivering the world-leading digital archives solutions Safety Deposit Box (SDB) and Preservica. He began

addressing the digital archives challenge in 2001 as part of the team building a digital archive system for the UK National Archive. He also worked alongside History Associates on the Lockheed Martin team building the Electronic Records Archive for NARA. Mr. Evans holds a degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Manchester.

### National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA History was the focus of an initial panel at the recent AHA conference. The panel was titled “Aerospace History: Changes in the Field Through the Eyes of AHA Aerospace History Fellows.” Former NASA Chief Historian Sylvia Kraemer, who started the Fellowship, was on the panel. The History Program Office also participated in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics conference on January 13–17, 2014. The two papers presented were on “Aerospace Archives,” by Jane Odom, and “Short Takeoff and Landing (STOL),” by Dr. Rob Ferguson.

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) completed part of the video documentary on JPL’s history titled *The Stuff of Dreams: JPL and the Beginnings of the Space Age*. Roger Launius and John Krige have coedited *Space Shuttle Legacy: How We Did It and What We Learned*. It explores the legacy of the Space Shuttle.

New publications include *The Spoken Word: Recollections of Dryden History, the Shuttle Years, Sweeping Forward: Developing and Testing the Grumman X-29A Forward Swept Wing Research Aircraft*, by Frederick A. Johnsen; and *Quieting the Boom: The Shaped Sonic Boom Demonstrator and the Quest for Quiet Supersonic Flight*, by Lawrence R. Benson. The last two and others can be downloaded at <http://www.nasa.gov/connect/ebooks/>

### National Archives and Records Administration

Digitization of the 1950 Census has begun. Jim Challis and Marlon Wise, both in the Innovation Office Digitization Division, are taking the lead on different parts of the project. Challis is managing the microfilm digitization and has completed over 250,000 images of the approximately 6 million images. Marlon is scanning the 9,000 Enumeration District (ED) maps and has completed over 600 of them. Getting started early is important for several reasons. First, the ED maps can be released prior to the 72-year holding period and are of great interest to researchers. Second, once the images have been digitized, they will still need to be indexed. The staff will use automated handwriting recognition.

The George W. Bush Library will release around 200,000 pages of documents in May to give researchers a taste of the collection. While some SMU students and professors have taken advantage, officials knew the torrent wouldn’t come until FOIA access began. The library holds 43,000 artifacts, 70 million pages of documents, 4 million photos, 80 terabytes of data, and 200 million emails. Archivists have been processing the records for five years, organizing and devising an organizational plan for them. The emails require careful methods for separate researchable records and redact information where deemed necessary. Under the Presidential Records Act, many records can be requested by the public five years after the presidential administration ends. Other records can be withheld for 12 years.

### National Institutes of Health

The Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum assisted in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Clinical Center during October by posting information relating to the Clinical Center found in the files of the Office of NIH History. <http://history.nih.gov/research/clinicalcenter.html>.

In March, the NIH History Office devoted its social media presence to Women’s History Month. It highlighted the work of early

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women scientists at the Hygienic Laboratory and at NIH by creating a page of early women scientists at NIH. Read about Alice Evans or Margaret Pittman at <http://history.nih.gov/research/womenatnih.html> and check the Facebook and Tumblr pages for more in-depth articles on past and present women scientists at NIH.

The History Office Pinterest page mounted sets of images of women scientists, the NIH Clinical Center, and other sets at <http://www.pinterest.com/nihhistory/>. The Tumblr page also has a section just for March and NIH women scientists at <http://historyatnih.tumblr.com/>.

Museum curator Michele Lyons gave a presentation to the National Institutes of Health on March 26, 2014 on “Women in NIH History.”

### National Museum of American History

A new History Highlights Case showcases innovations in science, medicine, and computing in the 1960s. This display, with objects circa 1964, showcases how the museum encouraged such change by making its visitors better aware of past scientific accomplishments.

### National Museum of Health and Medicine

The National Museum of Health and Medicine will celebrate anatomy, the evolution of military medicine, and more at the 3rd USA Science & Engineering Festival, which will take place at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC, April 26 and 27, 2014. The Museum, along with more than 500 science and engineering organizations from all over the country, will offer hands-on activities to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

### National Park Service

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area has opened an exhibit at Valley Forge National Historical Park titled *Bringing the War of Independence to Life: 19th Century Illustrations of the American Revolution*. The exhibit features 42 illustrations of the Revolutionary War by 16 artists whose works originally appeared in 19th-century publications. All the works were culled from the personal collection of Schuylkill River Heritage Area Executive Director Kurt Zwinkl. They will be on display in Valley Forge Visitor Center through April 28. The exhibit will be on display from June 23 to August 26 in Washington Headquarters Museum at Morristown National Historical Park. The exhibit is the result of a partnership between the Schuylkill River Heritage Area and Valley Forge National Historical Park, as well as Morristown National Historical Park, and Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area, in New Jersey. This partnership enabled the Schuylkill River Heritage Area to reach a wider audience and tell a broader story of the American Revolution.

### U.S. Army Center of Military History

The Spring 2014 issue of *Army History* is now available. The feature articles are “The Terrills of Virginia: Impossible Loyalties, Irreconcilable Differences,” by Steven L. Ossad; “The Bravest and Best: Patton and the Death of Capt. Richard Jenson in North Africa,” by Kevin M. Hymel; and “U.S. Army Art Spotlight (Afghanistan Art).” The journal is produced for the professional development of Army historians and as Army educational and training literature. All issues are available at [www.history.army.mil/armyhstory/index.html](http://www.history.army.mil/armyhstory/index.html)

Col. Jerry Brooks will be returning from his service as theater historian in Afghanistan, and will be replaced by Mike Knapp in February to record the end of the U.S. mission. The Center is working to preserve records from Operation ENDURING FREEDOM/Operation IRAQI FREEDOM/Operation NEW DAWN for the critical purposes of writing histories of those operations and supporting injured veterans’ claims. Also, the Museum Division has been able to save funds by relocating and consolidating macro artifacts and exhibits to nine different locations.

### U.S. Forest Service

The Forest Service honored the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, or “Triple Nickles,” during the February 27 dedication of the new Triple Nickles Multipurpose Room in the Yates Federal Building. The Triple Nickles became the nation’s first African-American smokejumpers. Their original role was to minimize damage caused by balloon bombs launched by the Japanese with the intent to start forest fires in the western United States. Few of the incendiary devices reached their destinations, but the Triple Nickles were instrumental in helping the Forest Service fight naturally caused fires.

The History Program organized and led a tour at this year’s American Society for Environmental History Conference in San Francisco. The tour centered around the 1991 Oakland Hills Firestorm that destroyed over 3,400 homes and killed 25 people on October 19–20, 1991. The tour brought educators and Forest Service personnel to the fire site to meet with representatives from 13 state, municipal, and university fire and land management organizations to discuss the events surrounding the fire, lessons learned, and efforts taken since to mitigate against a future disaster. The tour is being developed into a staff ride (similar to what the military organizes around historic battles to extract lessons learned) for federal and state fire officials.

The Rocky Mountain Region of the Forest Service received the 2014 Steven H. Hart Award and Colorado Governor’s Award for Historic Preservation for the Colorado Wickiup Project. Wickiups are domed shelters historically used by Native Americans in the western United States. Other award recipients for this project included the Dominguez Archaeological Research Group, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Southern Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service. As a result of the Colorado Wickiup Project, fragile Ute culture wickiups were documented at 300 sites across Colorado.

### U.S. House of Representatives

The Office of the Historian has published its new volume *Hispanic Americans in Congress, 1822–2012*. The Office’s website (<http://history.house.gov/Exhibitions-and-Publications/HAIC/Hispanic-Americans-in-Congress/>) provides a good introduction. It features “biographical profiles of former Hispanic Members of Congress, links to information about current Hispanic Members, essays on the institutional and national events that shaped successive generations of Hispanic Members of Congress, and images of each individual Member, including rare photos.”



Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, ca. 1980s.



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## Federalist Calendar

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

**July 17–20, 2014. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR).** Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. Visit <http://faculty.chass.ncsu.edu/ctfriend/SHEAR1.htm>

**June 26– July 1, 2014. American Library Association (ALA).** Annual meeting. Las Vegas, NV. Visit <http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/ala-upcoming-annual-conferences-midwinter-meetings>

**July 24–26, 2014. Association for Documentary Editing (ADE).** Annual Meeting. Louisville, Kentucky, (The Seelbach Hilton). Visit [http://www.documentaryediting.org/wordpress/?page\\_id=71](http://www.documentaryediting.org/wordpress/?page_id=71)

**Aug. 10–16, 2014. Society of American Archivists (SAA), CoSA, and NAGARA.** Joint Annual Meeting. Marriott Wardman Park. Washington, DC. Visit <http://www2.archivists.org/conference>

**Aug. 28–31, 2014. American Political Science Association (APSA).** Annual Meeting & Exhibition, “Politics after the Digital Revolution.” Visit [https://www.apsanet.org/content\\_77049.cfm?navID=1063](https://www.apsanet.org/content_77049.cfm?navID=1063)

**Oct. 8–12, 2014. Oral History Association (OHA).** 48th Annual Meeting. “Oral History in Motion: Movements, Transformations, and the Power of Story.” Madison, WI. Visit <http://www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/>

**Nov. 6–8, 2014. American Society for Legal History (ASLH).** Annual Meeting. Denver, Colorado. Visit <https://aslh.net/2014-annual-meeting-call-for-proposals/>

**Jan. 2–5, 2015. American Historical Association (AHA).** Annual Meeting. New York City. Visit: <http://www.historians.org/annual-meeting/future-meetings>

**Apr. 9–12, 2015. Society for Military History (SMH).** “Conflict and Commemoration: The Influence of War on Society.” Montgomery, AL. Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa. Visit <http://www.smh-hq.org/conf/futuremeetings.html>

**Apr. 15–18, 2015. National Council on Public History (NCPH).** Annual Meeting. Nashville, Tennessee. Visit <http://ncph.org/cms/conferences/2015-annual-meeting/>

**Apr. 16–19, 2015. Organization of American Historians (OAH).** Annual Meeting. St. Louis, MO. America’s Center Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel. Visit <http://www.oah.org/?it=meetings-events/annual-conference/future-annual-meetings/>

Additional listings at <http://shfg.org/shfg/category/calendar/>