



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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SHFG
www.shfg.org

**SHFG's Annual Conference
April 24–25, 2015**

“Across the Great Divide: Historical Research in a Digital World”

*Robert C. Byrd Center
for Legislative Studies,
Shepherdstown, West Virginia*

Join us for exciting sessions on digital history, foreign relations, CIA history, institutional history, declassification work, Army Corps of Engineers history, military history, data collection, and more.

Highlights include the honorary Roger R. Trask Lecture, delivered by Victoria Harden, former Director of the Office of NIH History and the Stetten Museum at the National Institutes for Health; an opening Digital

See “SHFG Conference”
cont'd on page 3



The Byrd Center

CIA's Political Warfare with *Doctor Zhivago* Panel Explores Cold War Book Program

The CIA Historical Program's panel on January 15 at the Woodrow Wilson Center was the latest in conjunction with the agency's select release of documents related to the Cold War. The discussion was titled “Marshall Plan for the Mind: The CIA Book Program during the Cold War.” The program focused on the CIA's efforts to spread copies of *Doctor Zhivago*, Boris Pasternak's novel that was critical of revolutionary Russia, and banned by the Soviets. The Washington session built on a September 2014 panel in Gdansk, Poland, that included some of the participants in the smuggling and distribution efforts in the late 1950s and 1960s. One method, for example, was for Russian travelers to order copies at bookstores and have them sent to the American Embassy in Moscow.

Recent CIA releases concerned the 1978 Camp David Accords, the Bosnian War, the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, and Life Behind the Berlin Wall.

The January 15 panel provided good background on the organizational structure of the CIA's Publications and Special Project Division, headed by George Minden; Pasternak's relations with Soviet authorities and the smuggling out of the manuscript to an Italian publisher; and the CIA's secret role in printing and distributing the book.

Author Peter Finn spoke on Pasternak's travails, the international attention, and the author's eventual refusal of the Nobel Prize. In 1958, the CIA secretly printed the book in The Hague and later in the U.S., amid rumors about its involvement. Some editions of the volume were no more than 7cm by 11 cm. Burton Gerber, retired CIA, noted the critical influence of Djilas Gilas's *The New Class* (1957) that preceded *Doctor Zhivago*, as very influential on the CIA's emerging book program. The message and political impact of Pasternak's work was that “every individual is entitled to a personal life.”

The panel then brought in Pawel Sowinski electronically from Poland. He has uncovered more on the secretive networks and operations of



The miniature paperback edition of Doctor Zhivago printed by the CIA in 1959.

the book program, finding surviving participants and their stories. He noted the value of notes left by Georg Minden, who went on to head the International Literary Centre (ILC), 1975–91, financed by the CIA. Sowinski began to speculate

See “*Doctor Zhivago*” cont'd on page 3

INSIDE

CIA's Political Warfare with <i>Doctor Zhivago</i>	1
President's Message, <i>Carl Ashley</i>	2
Editor's Note.....	3
National Archives Independence, <i>Greg Bradsher</i>	4
FOIA Matters.....	5
Office Profile: Center for Legislative Archives, <i>Richard McCulley</i>	6
History Professional: Interview with <i>Marc Rothenberg</i>	8
The National Declassification Center, <i>Alex. J. Daverede III</i>	10
Bureau of Intelligence and Research.....	12
From the Archives: SHFG and the University of Maryland, <i>Chas Downs</i>	14
Commentary.....	16
Making History.....	17
Calendar.....	20

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.

Current and back issues are available to members at <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/>. Content listings for all issues are posted at <http://shfg.org/shfg/publications/the-federalist/>

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 Carl Ashley

In my final message as president of the Society, I'd like to reflect on what we have accomplished this year and consider some of the challenges we face moving forward. We have made progress in several areas including improving our online services, venturing into electronic-only publications, and increasing outreach to potential new members. I am happy to report that after brief spell of financial uncertainty in January we now have a budget in place and resources to carry us through the remainder of the year. I want to take this opportunity to thank sincerely the Society Officers, the Executive Council, and members of the various committees who have selflessly given their time. Special appreciation goes to members of the ad hoc committees on budget, website development, and membership. Without the dedication of these volunteers, the SHFG could not pursue its mission.

Despite all we've accomplished, I can't help but feel a tinge of regret that we didn't do more. In the past, the Society played an effective role in the important issues of the day, whether in the creation of an independent National Archives, the jobs crisis, or establishing Principles and Standards for federal history programs. It may seem we are in a period of relative calm compared with the early years, yet there are serious challenges on the horizon. The OPM position classification for the 0170 Historian series, for example, has not been

updated since 1962. It could be time to recommend amendments that reflect the variety of responsibilities tasked to federal historians as well as additional duties wrought by changing technology, social media, and the increasing professionalization of the field. An issue of critical importance to us all is the effective preservation and declassification of electronic records. Frankly, I believe we must question the assumption that the electronic records being produced today will be available in any useable form for historians in the future. After all, the 20th century is littered with technologies—like microfiche—that were supposed to make paper records obsolete. It is only a slight exaggeration to say that the Dead Sea Scrolls are more accessible than the information contained on a 3½-inch floppy disk. The Society should consider how issues like these will affect our profession and work to steer policy in the right direction.

Above all, we need to recruit the next generation of Society members. A new generation of engaged professionals is essential for the Society to meet the challenges ahead as an all-volunteer organization. Perhaps our greatest challenge is simply lack of awareness of the essential role the Society plays. Every member can help promote the Society among colleagues, students, and interested people everywhere, and I encourage you to do so. I thank you all for your support and encouragement this past year. It has been a tremendous honor to serve the Society as president.



Explorations highlights and reviews the broad range of federal history work and nonfederal work that promote the history of the federal government. It is sent by email to SHFG members three times per year: April, August, and December.

Recent topics: Intelligence, Public History, Military History, Foreign Policy, National Park Service, and Book Reviews. Articles are welcomed at explorations@shfg.org

CALL FOR PAPERS

2016 NCPH-SHFG Joint Conference

Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel,
Baltimore, Maryland

"Challenging the Exclusive Past"

March 16–19, 2016

All proposals are due July 15, 2015. The early deadline is due to the joint participation of the National Council on Public History. Please consider submitting a proposal! See <http://shfg.org/shfg/events/annual-meeting/> and <http://ncph.org/cms/conferences/2016-annual-meeting/>

Editor's Note

The universe of federal history is far larger and more diverse than we might think. This issue of *The Federalist* continues to explore that diversity and reveal just how innovative federal historians can and must be. First, they must serve the unique missions of their agencies, and that affects not only their duties but their methodologies. Our interview with **Marc Rothenberg**, retired Historian at the National Science Foundation, provides insights into his editing career and how historians must set office priorities in their work. **Richard McCulley**, Historian at the Center for Legislative Archives, and a past president of SHFG, provides an excellent overview of the Center and how it serves both Congress and the research public. We see how the Center must observe its own congressionally mandated rules for preservation and access. The National Declassification Center (NDC) is of high interest in our ongoing concern for access to and declassification of the great backlog of unprocessed records at the National Archives. **Alex. J. Daverede III**, Director of the Center's Processing and Release Division, provides a clear explanation of the work processes the staff developed to meet that enormous challenge under tight deadlines. The results in declassification have been of enormous benefit to our nation. We look forward to an NDC session at our conference later this month. **Greg Bradsher**, a senior archivist at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland, recalls the fight for National Archives independence in 1985. Many historians, both academic and public, joined in that struggle to put records first. It was a clear statement that historical evidence, preserved within a dedicated institution like the Archives, mattered and was central to the maintenance of our political-legal order. We hope you enjoy the other features herein and continue to support SHFG in its varied efforts to champion federal history. Please contact me with any comments at benjamin.guterman@shfg.org.

— Benjamin Guterman, editor

Blogs at www.shfg.org

- *Policy making*—Historians are vital to effective policy making. How can we ensure that historians are included in planning efforts?
- *Oral History*—Women in the Federal Government Oral History Project is an important supplement to federal history, 1940–1980.
- *Archives*—April 1 marks the 30th anniversary of National Archives independence. Some thoughts on why this was so important for historians and their work.
- *Declassification*—Katyn Forest Massacre Documents Release
- *Medicine & Science*—Using ships' data to understand changing weather and climate change.

Review our blogs at www.shfg.org.

Comments and contributions are welcomed.

Members Page Now Available

SHFG's new members' online login page is at

<http://shfg.wildapricot.org/>

Members can review and renew their membership status, manage their personal profile (including address and email), register for Society events, and view new and past issues of *The Federalist* and *Explorations*. Contact shfg.ebulletin@gmail.com for any questions.

"SHFG Conference" from page 1

History Workshop; a Friday, April 24, evening reception at the Bavarian Inn; and our annual awards program.

Program and registration online at <http://shfg.org/shfg/events/annual-meeting/>



Digital Publishing Panel at the SHFG Conference, 2014

"Doctor Zhivago" continued from page 1

on the effectiveness of the book program, finding that over 60,000 copies of *Doctor Zhivago* were smuggled through the Baltics alone. Yet no list has been found of the full catalogue of CIA books produced for export.

View the panel on YouTube at <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/marshall-plan-for-the-mind-the-cia-covert-book-program-during-the-cold-war> Released documents are posted at <http://www.foia.cia.gov/collection/doctor-zhivago>



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.

National Archives Independence 30 Years Ago

Greg Bradsher

Seeing an announcement recently of the Society for History in the Federal Government's (SHFG) annual meeting on April 24–25, 2015, brought back memories of its founding in 1979 and its support for the National Archives and Records Service's (NARS) independence from the General Services Administration (GSA). SHFG was founded at a time that the National Archives was having many difficulties with GSA, especially relating to the decentralization of archival holdings from Washington, DC, to the regional archives.

Discussions regarding the decentralization or regionalization of the holdings of the National Archives had taken place frequently since the establishment of regional archival units in the late 1960s. These discussions were often heated, with diverse opinions on the most appropriate location for the agency's archival holdings. Perhaps the most acrimonious discussions took place during 1979 and 1980, influencing (in part) the National Archives gaining its independence from GSA.

Learning that the National Archives was regionalizing some of its Washington, DC, holdings, and having just returned from touring NARS facilities, former Rear Adm. Rowland G. Freeman III, GSA Administrator, directed NARS, in August 1979, to prepare a plan to decentralize more records. He also believed that the nation's archives needed to be brought closer to the American public in concert with President Jimmy Carter's goal of "bringing government closer to the people." Freeman wanted records relating to a particular subject deposited in an appropriate regional archives branch; for example, all archives relating to Reconstruction after the Civil War would be sent to the Atlanta, Georgia, branch. On September 12, Dr. James E. O'Neill, Acting Archivist of the United States, wrote Freeman about the inappropriateness and difficulties in moving records on the scale

proposed by Freeman, who had maintained there was more and cheaper storage space in the Archives' 15 regional offices. But O'Neill had his marching orders, and NARS began the process of readying the first 100,000 cubic feet for transfer during the winter of 1979–1980.

The possibility of records being dispersed, with no apparent regard for archival principles or the needs of researchers, caused scholars, NARS archivists, and professional organizations (such as the SHFG and the Society of American Archivists) to complain to Freeman, the press, Congress, and the White House. During the fall and into the winter Dr. O'Neill was instrumental in delaying the transfer of the archives to the field while the opposition to the transfer pleaded their case.

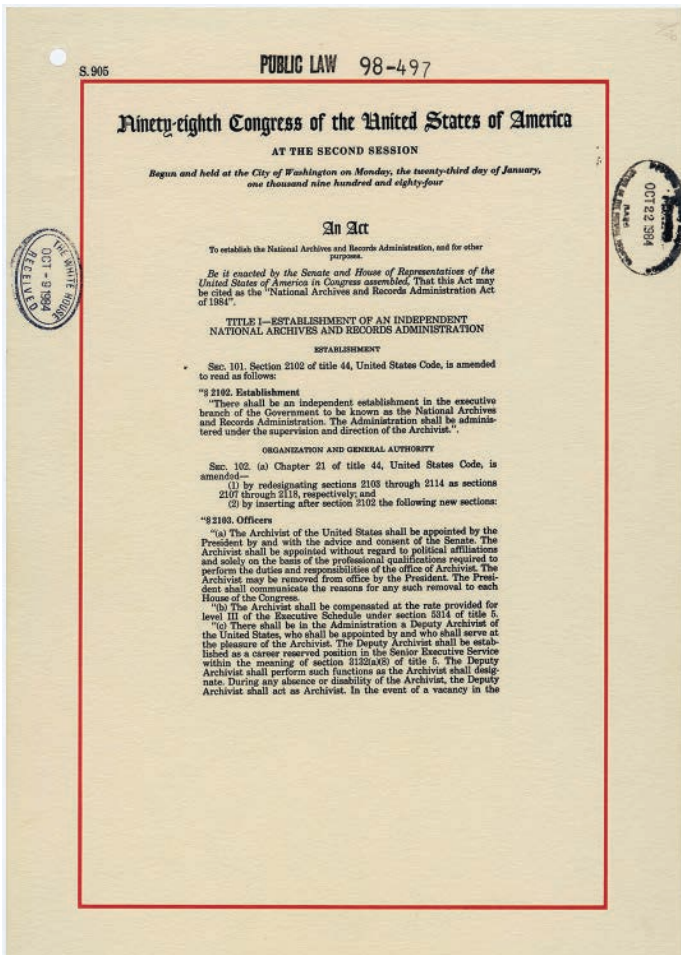
On December 21, 1979, in the chandeliered Archivist Reception Room at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, Admiral Freeman met the National Archives Advisory Council. According to the account of this meeting in the *Washington Post* the next day, scholars did not take Freeman's comments very well. Splitting up the Reconstruction-era records, which were being used by many to understand Afro-American life in the 19th century, "will make them almost unusable," said University of Maryland professor Ira Berlin. He said the Freedman's Bureau records should stay in Washington, DC, because they often require cross-checking with documents from other departments that were stored at the National Archives in Washington, DC.

In early January 1980, former Archivist of the United States James B. Rhoads and noted historian Dr. John Hope Franklin went to the White House and lobbied against the decentralization plan. During the second week of January 1980, a group of local historians and archivists formed an Emergency Committee to Preserve the National Archives. Its members included William Appleman Williams, president of the Organization of American Historians, and noted historian Herbert G. Gutman. Shortly thereafter, Freeman was called to the White House and told to hold off on the transfer of the records to the field. On January 22 Freeman announced that he was stopping the dispersal of the archives because "It hasn't been managed very well" by archives officials. *U.S. News & World Report* noted that "good sense has scored a rare victory against the bureaucracy in the confrontation over the American heritage."

The battle over the decentralization issue, and other matters of conflict between GSA and NARS, resulted in the introduction of a bill in Congress in June 1980 separating NARS from GSA, making it once again an independent agency. Although this bill was not enacted into law, it started a public debate on the status of NARS, which eventually resulted in the National Archives and



The Archivist's Reception Room, where the meeting about decentralization took place (Photo by Pepe Gomez).



The act to establish an independent National Archives and Records Administration, April 1, 1985. Public Law 98-497.

Records Administration Act of 1984 (98 Stat. 2280), October 19, 1984, making the National Archives—renamed the National Archives and Records Administration—an independent agency on April 1, 1985.

A fuller version of this article is posted at www.shfg.org.

Greg Bradsher is a senior archivist at the National Archives at College Park.

SHFG Online New at www.shfg.org

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

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FOIA Matters

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reform bills pending in Congress could greatly change how agencies process requests for historical material.

House bill HR 653 and Senate bill S 337 would limit agency use of FOIA Exemption 5 to a period of 25 years. This exemption covers common legal privileges, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product privilege, and the deliberative process privilege. Exemption 5 has come under close examination regarding an increase in the exemption’s use and a court decision upholding the Central Intelligence Agency’s use of Exemption 5 to deny access to a copy of a 30-year-old draft volume of the history of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Proponents of the change say that the 25-year time limit would bring FOIA’s Exemption 5 more in line with how legal privileges are treated under the Presidential Records Act, which protects similar legal privileges for 12 years after a president leaves office. The bill’s supporters note that Exemption 5 is not used to withhold agency records that have been accessioned by the National Archives and Records Administration. Opponents of the change cite the potential chilling effect on agency discussions.

A bill that passed the Senate in the closing days of the last session of Congress included a similar Exemption 5 sunset. The House-passed companion bill did not include the change.

This session’s S 337 and HR 653 include different provisions that would have to be addressed by a conference committee if they are voted out of their respective chambers. The Senate Judiciary Committee passed S 337 on February 9, 2015. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee passed HR 653 on March 25, 2015.

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 contact for assistance with any aspect of the FOIA process. Contact [OGIS at \[OGIS@nara.gov\]\(mailto:OGIS@nara.gov\)](mailto:OGIS@nara.gov) or 202-741-5770.

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

The Center for Legislative Archives

Richard McCulley

The Center for Legislative Archives is part of the office of Legislative Archives, Presidential Libraries, and Museum Services in the National Archives and Records Administration. Center holdings document the representative branch of the national government, beginning with the records of the First Congress (1789–1791) and including those of very recent Congresses, an estimated half-billion pages. The total volume of 228,000 cubic feet of records consists of approximately 87,000 cubic feet of records of the U.S. Senate (38%) and 81,000 cubic feet of records of the U.S. House of Representatives (35%). The total volume of records grows by approximately 8–10 million pages per Congress, with nearly all of the increase attributable to new accessions of Senate and House records. In addition to preserving and making publicly available the records of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Center is also responsible for preserving and making publicly available records of congressionally created commissions such as the 9/11 Commission and the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission.

Origins of the Center for Legislative Archives

After the National Archives was created as an independent agency within the executive branch of the federal government in 1934, the Senate first archived records in 1937. The House first archived records in 1946 after Congress passed the Legislative Reorganization Act that codified regular transfers of both Senate and House records to the National Archives. Consideration of separation of powers issues, however, prompted the Senate and the House of Representatives to retain legal ownership of their records, and consequently each body has established separate rules for defining, administering, and providing public access.

In the 1930s and 1940s, the National Archives accommodated Congress's retention of legal ownership of its records by moving to establish a separate Division of Legislative Archives. Those plans, however, were derailed when the agency lost its independence and became a division of the General Services Administration in 1950. After the agency regained its independence in 1985, the Archivist established a separate legislative division that was administratively upgraded and renamed the Center for Legislative Archives in 1989.

In 1990, Congress created the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress to provide policy guidance concerning the records of Congress and required it to meet twice a year. In

alternate two-year cycles, the Advisory Committee is chaired by the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House who are responsible for the transfer respectively of Senate and House records to the National Archives. The Archivist of the United States, the Senate Historian, and the House Historian are *ex officio* members of the Advisory Committee, which also consists of the appointees of the leadership of the Senate and House of Representatives. The Center submits an annual report of its activities to the Advisory Committee and a more comprehensive report to the committee every six years.

Since the early 1990s, the staff of the Center has remained remarkably stable, and in fiscal year 2014 stood at 19 full-time and 2 part-time employees. The Center's major program activities and its commitment of staff resources are targeted to three critical groups and communities: providing records assistance to House and Senate committees, congressional administrators, and the congressional community generally; providing archival services and programs to support researchers' use of the records; and creating educational materials and programs based on the records of Congress to advance public understanding of the history of Congress and representative government in the United States.

Assistance to the House and Senate

Considerable staff resources are devoted to the accessioning of Senate and House textual records. For example, during the 2014 fiscal year, the Senate sent 539 new accessions totaling 930 cubic feet of textual records (2.3 million pages), and the House sent 233 new accessions totaling 774 cubic feet (1.9) million pages to the Center. While records arrive at the Center from Capitol Hill, the Center provides critical support to the current business of the Senate and the House by continually returning records to committees of origin upon their request. In fiscal year 2014, the Center responded to 160 requests for records, delivering 649 boxes (over 800,000 pages) to the Senate and House.

The Center also provides support to the Senate and House through its electronic records services. The Center's electronic records volume has grown rapidly over the last five years and is now over 56 terabytes, an increase of nearly 20 percent from fiscal year 2013 to 2014. The electronic records staff works closely with Senate and House archivists to transfer committee hearings videos and to archive the electronic records of Senate and House committees.

Since the *Capitol Visitor Center* opened to the public in 2008, it has averaged over a half-million visitors annually and has become the main venue to exhibit Senate and House documents directly to the public. Center staff serve on the Capitol Visitor Center exhibit-content team, select original Senate and House documents for display, and review exhibit themes and text. Center staff also give gallery talks on Senate and House documents on display in exhibits at the Capital Visitor Center.

Archival Programs for Researchers

Since it is difficult to think of a subject that Congress has not legislated, investigated, or debated, it is not surprising that the



Staff at the Center for Legislative Archives, Washington, DC, 2015

1,892 total researcher inquiries during the last fiscal year concerned topics that reflect the extraordinary diversity of Senate and House records. In recent years, researcher interest has been distributed in the broad subjects of national security (37%), law and government (37%), and domestic policy (26%). Over 50 percent of research inquiries have concerned modern Congresses (1939–present) with a notable increase in researcher interest in recently released investigative records of the 1950s and 1960s.

Since 2011, the Center has invited select researchers to share their research methods and findings with the National Archives community of staff and fellow researchers. These Researcher Talk seminars have given scholars the opportunity to discuss their research in Senate and House records and have helped the Center assess how well we are fulfilling our mandates to promote research in the holdings by scholars and to advance the study of the history of Congress.

Since 2011, the reference staff has been fully engaged in an on-going project to provide more in-depth description of Senate and House records, with priority given to recently opened records and those not described in the 1989 *Guide to the Records of the United States Senate* and *Guide to the Records of the United States House of Representatives*. At the end of the fiscal year 2014, the team had described 82 percent of House records and 91 percent of Senate records at the series level and had completed more detailed “enhanced description” for 37 percent of House records and 26 percent of Senate records. This initiative is making it possible for researchers to conduct more targeted searches for Senate and House committee records by using the National Archives Catalog, NARA’s comprehensive search engine.

Congressional Outreach Services

To advance public understanding of the history of Congress and representative government of the United States, the outreach staff creates educational materials and conducts programs aimed at students, teachers, and the general public. Digital outreach has

become an increasingly important component of the Center’s outreach efforts. To coincide with the September 1789 congressional passage of the first proposed amendments to the Constitution, in September 2014, the Center launched *Congress Creates the Bill of Rights*, an eBook, mobile application for tablets, and online resources for teachers and students. In 2014, outreach staff also completed a major overhaul of the Center’s website, including a new research portal, and expanded the Center’s social media reach to Twitter. The Center’s Tumblr account, *Congress in the Archives*, launched in 2012, has over 110,000 followers. Center staff also contribute to Archives-wide educational sites such as Education Updates blog, *Prologue: Pieces of History* blog, the National Archives Education Facebook page, Flickr, Pinterest, and DocsTeach.

Outreach initiatives to teachers include regularly updated online lesson plans on such topics as Congress and the War of 1812 and Congress, the President, and War Powers and education update blogs on a wide variety of topics such as the Equal Rights Amendment, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Kidnapping of Free People of Color. The Center works with educational partners in the National Archives and with local and national partners to train teachers in the classroom use of the records of Congress, and in the fiscal year 2014 reached more than 600 teachers in 18 workshops in Washington, DC, Florida, and Texas.

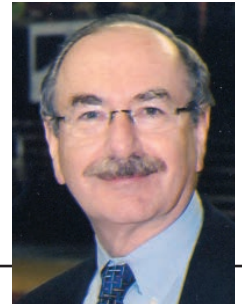
The Center partners with national organizations that share its goals of preserving the records of Congress and increasing understanding of the history of Congress. The Center is a founding member of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress, the national organization of repositories of members’ personal papers, and hosts that organization’s annual conference every other year.

Richard McCulley is the Historian at the Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives, Washington, DC.

The History Professional

An Interview with Marc Rothenberg

Former SHFG President and National Science Foundation historian, Marc Rothenberg retired on Halloween 2014, having spent 40 years as a federal historian. Knowing that our “emeritis” members are often the busiest and hardest working historians in the field once they become free to pursue their own postponed projects, we were quick to secure an interview with him, asking him to reflect on his career and offer his insights and perspectives on federal history.



Interview by Suzanne Junod

Marc Rothenberg

How did you begin your career as a federal historian?

I began my career with a post-doc appointment working in the Joseph Henry Papers at the Smithsonian. Henry was the first Smithsonian Secretary, serving from 1846 to 1878. A prominent physicist with an international reputation, he was already well-respected when he took charge of the Smithsonian, shaping its work, and establishing it as a pre-eminent research institution. His papers were insightful and historically important, but also quite voluminous. Just before I began, a member of the editorial team left, and I was fortunate enough to be hired to fill the vacancy. The position I held had been funded by “soft” money through the National Endowment for the Humanities. By the mid-1970s, however, Congress had become unhappy with the NEH providing funding to federal agencies, primarily the National Park Service, but others as well, including the Smithsonian. Congress eventually agreed to fund seven NEH positions at the Smithsonian, and I was given one of the federal positions in 1978. I spent the next 28 years there.

The completion of the edited series of Henry papers was quite an achievement. The series was awarded the prestigious Eugene Ferguson Prize by the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT). From what I can tell, although the series is now out of print, it is still in high demand. [Ferguson was a founding member of SHOT, and the Eugene S. Ferguson Prize recognizes outstanding and original reference works that support future scholarship in the history of technology.]

The Henry series was awarded the Ferguson Prize in 2007, following the publication of the last of the 11-volume series. (The 12th volume is the cumulative index.) Nathan Reingold edited the first five volumes. When Nate gave up editorship of the series in 1985, I took his place and edited volumes 6–11. It does seem that over the years the Henry series volumes have proven their value academically.

How did you come to take the Historian’s position at the National Science Foundation?

In 2006, just as we were wrapping up volume 11 of the Henry Papers, it became clear that the Smithsonian was not going to continue funding my position. The National Science Foundation, however, had decided to revive its history program after nearly a

decade without one. Merton England had launched the history program at the NSF, and upon his retirement he was succeeded by George Mazuzan. After he retired, subsequent directors of the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs (OLPA), where the historian’s position was located, were either not enthusiasts of history or were preoccupied with other duties. But by 2006 there was both internal and external discussion about the need to restore the historian’s position. The twin challenges of relaunching a program and making the transition from doing the history of 19th-century science to doing that of the second half of the 20th century was irresistible.

What were your biggest challenges when you came to the National Science Foundation?

In the beginning, it was important for me to decide how to frame my work and set priorities. As federal historians repeatedly demonstrate, the scope of federal history can be very broad, but priorities are often determined by the federal agencies themselves. There is, however, usually some room for flexibility and creativity allowing the historian to frame the scope and content of work. Richard Hewlett, one of the founders of the SHFG, wrote convincingly about tensions and choices between two sides of federal history: writing a scholarly history or focusing on service to the agency employing them. My biggest challenge was to decide whether or not I should follow up with Merton England’s multivolume history of NSF. Obviously I had had experience with multivolume historical works. In the end, however, I decided to focus on becoming an agency resource rather than putting out volumes of Foundation history.

How did you address this issue at NSF?

I was totally overwhelmed at times responding to queries from all quarters. I began by revamping the history website to maintain a more public presence and allow people to orient themselves more generally to the agency’s history before coming to me. That worked only to a point, however. I continued to get external queries from a broad spectrum of individuals: scholars, History Day students, family members of past employees, and past award recipients. They all had questions that required research in files that needed to be organized and updated. I also

fielded questions from the press, which the public affairs side of the house supported and appreciated.

The staff, all the way up to the Director level, began to come to me asking about the “when, why, and how” of past NSF activities. The high staff turnover at the Foundation because of the use of temporary “rotators” made institutional memory all the more important to them, and a staple of my work soon became the preparation of one-page memos providing historical perspective and background information. I was also asked by the FOIA staff in the Office of the General Counsel to assist them in identifying documents that were being requested.

One of the more important activities I took on was to become involved in training program managers and senior staff on the history of the NSF in which I focused on interactions with the White House and Congress. Speaking both in the context of formal training sessions and at office meetings, I was able to get across the idea that most issues faced by the organization now had also been confronted in the past. I also tried to get, and was also fortunate enough to maintain, an internship program that was very good over the years and brought in some talented young workers.

After the absence of a historian at the agency for more than a decade, employees began to appear “out of the woodwork” with materials they had kept that they thought were of historic value. They were happy to share them with me, some for no other reason than to free up their file space, but others from an interest in the history of the Foundation. I found some really good and valuable materials in these early donations and soon found myself developing an archive.

What kind of support did you receive from the NSF and the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs when you made this determination?

The support was wonderful. The public affairs team was able to help me with visual work, including the revising of the website and, along with a consultant from the Smithsonian, in the creation of a wall exhibit on the history of NSF. I received adequate funds for archival supplies and other activities, two storage areas for my collections, and the freedom to decide the best way to meet my responsibilities.

What kinds of resources did you make available on the website?

The NSF had a very inadequate and unappealing timeline. With the assistance of the IT staff in OLPA, I was able to expand

the timeline and make it more interesting visually. I placed a selective bibliography on the site. We also have a variety of publications on the site, including material prepared for the 60th anniversary of the NSF in 2010.

All federal historians and offices are challenged by the records process and Records Management Schedules negotiated with Congress. Your background would make you a natural in handling and appreciating official records. How did this translate into activities related to records management at NSF?

The NSF’s Records Management Schedule is narrowly focused. I soon realized that the history of the Foundation encompassed far more than the award recipient jackets that the Schedule encompassed. Since the National Archives and Records Administration was not particularly interested in the same historic materials that I felt were important to me as the agency’s historian, I began to collect program-level papers from retiring office directors. I received a scattering of office diaries. I also located some old and rare documents. We can now document the day-to-day schedule of a few program offices. I also worked with the library to put together a master list of NSF publications, which had never been systematic or comprehensive, as well as to obtain a copy of every single official publication. The library was pleased to cooperate because they were challenged by the queries that required documents in the files of staff members.

Were you involved in conducting oral history interviews?

I began to interview a few selected candidates—past directors and current senior staff—but I soon discovered that the preparation involved in conducting an interview with a past Director, not to mention the post-interview work in reviewing and editing the transcription, was challenging and eating into time for other activities. I eventually switched to interviewing select program officers and support staff, so as to broaden our understanding of life at the NSF.

What “words of wisdom” might you have for other federal historians as well as other aspiring federal historians as you retire?

Trust in luck. While it is always important to have the requisite historical skills and credentials, and of course, drive, luck always seemed to play a role in my career. First, I think that I was very fortunate in that opportunities arose for me over my career. Vacancies for which I was qualified appeared when I was job hunting.

Second, I was very fortunate to have had superiors throughout my career who believed that I had the best ideas on how to run a history program. At NSF, in particular, I was left alone and I operated more or less independently with the understanding that I would be responsible and helpful, and meet deadlines. It was a perfect environment for me. ❖

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The National Declassification Center: The New Path Forward towards Government Openness

Alex J. Daverede III

Background

Executive Order 13526, signed by President Barak Obama on December 29, 2009, was an early commitment by his administration to the idea of more transparent government. One of the important aspects of E.O. 13526 that had not appeared in prior Executive Orders dealing with the classification, protection, and declassification of National Security Information (NSI) was the establishment of a new National Declassification Center (NDC) at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

Prior to the establishment of the NDC, declassification operations at NARA were confined to a relatively small Initial Processing and Declassification Division hidden within the NARA's massive Office of Records Services—Washington, DC. The huge backlog of records awaiting declassification action amounted to an estimated 400 million pages, far beyond the capacity of a small NARA division to complete in a reasonable period; yet this was the goal established by the President in a memorandum he signed on the same day as E.O. 13526—a goal to be met by December 31, 2013.

Reinvention of the Declassification Process

It did not take long for the NDC's leaders along with new Director Sheryl Shenberger to determine that past practices could not eliminate the backlog in the time allotted. During the latter part of 2009 and into 2010, NARA operated a multiagency Project Management Team (PMT) to examine the agency's declassification process through the lens of Lean Six Sigma analysis. Given the existence of the huge backlog, it was clear that NARA's past federal records systematic declassification review practices would not do. Risk management had to be applied, and sampling techniques would have to substitute for page-by-page efforts that took far too much time to execute. The quality of the reviews by various agency/service declassification entities needed to be evaluated, remedial action taken if necessary, the Department of Energy's legal mandates considered, and a quality assurance process applied prior to the public release of any declassified records series.

That these tasks were to be done by a workforce accustomed to declassification review, archival description, and records processing was a leadership challenge of the first degree, one that took most of the year 2010 to resolve. However, by the beginning of 2011, the NDC began to hit its production stride. An empowered NDC staff provided a steady stream of feedback to the Center's leadership that adjusted processes as operational experience dictated. A newly developed metrics capability permitted an accurate real-time view of work accomplished as well as highlighting of less successful operational trends that needed correction. The NDC's partner federal agencies began to trust both the processes and the data that came out of the NDC workflow,

enhancing professional relationships that were (and still are) vital to the declassification community. Gradually the NDC developed momentum to meet the presidential challenges laid at its birth, and the promise of the NDC met some expectations when the Center managed to complete the quality assessment of the now accurately counted 351 million page backlog on December 31, 2013. The NDC quality assessment process involved NARA/federal agency teams evaluating each record series. A pass during this evaluation means that the record series may be cleared to go to the open shelves relatively quickly. If a fail occurs during the quality evaluation, then the records in question must undergo further remedial reviews that delay the movement of the series through the remaining NDC workflow processes.

While addressing the agency review quality issue was a key part of the NDC's business process review, some critical aspects of the declassification process remained as challenges. The Department of Energy (DOE)-NARA Special Historical Records Review Plan that implements Public Laws 105-261 and 106-65 (also known as the Kyl and Lott Amendments) imposes time and personnel overheads that must be accounted for in every review of a classified record series. DOE deploys a finite amount of resources to this program each year, and their Quality Assurance Review Program work queues are packed with series that have cleared the NDC quality assessment processes.

Finally, after all of the quality assessment/assurance work is completed, the classified record series must be prepared for researchers. This preparation may involve some records preservation or reboxing work, but the primary effort at this stage of the NDC workflow centers on indexing information in the NDC's declassification database known as the Archival Declassification Review and Redaction System (ADRRES). These records may be referred to another agency for review of their equity, exempted by the originating agency, or excluded due to the presence of Restricted Data/Formerly Restricted Data as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (as amended); and this information must be entered into ADRRES. The indexing process is labor intensive and a source of more unavoidable delay; however, indexing allows for an orderly review process for documents that offers a route for the possible future release of a withdrawn document. Once all of these hurdles are overcome, the NDC publishes via its blog (<http://blogs.archives.gov/ndc/>) lists of record series that are now declassified and are available to the research public.

Even this extensive discussion does not yet end the declassification process. All the documents that had been withdrawn and indexed for referral to another Federal agency go through the NDC's Interagency Referral Center (IRC) so that document can be seen by the appropriate agency reviewer who



renders a declassification decision for the document. The NDC is fortunate to have regular participation by several agencies: the CIA, NSA, DIA, the military services, OSD, Department of State, NGA, DISA, NRO, FBI, DOJ are among them. If cleared in the IRC, a declassified document then is refiled within its parent series for access by the research public.

For those records that retain their classification and were withdrawn from their original record series, the NDC directs a classified Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)/Mandatory Declassification Review (MDR) shop where researchers can file disclosure requests for those documents withdrawn from otherwise declassified record series. Both FOIA requests (authorized by the FOIA statute) and MDRs (authorized by E.O. 13526) require coordination with the originators of the withdrawn classified information, and the NDC's FOIA/MDR operation administers this coordination, which can take some time to complete.

The NDC Today

The accomplishment of President Obama's goal at the end of 2013 did not signal an end for the NDC. That achievement rather signalled the end of the beginning for the NDC. Workflow processes honed over the previous four years now could be applied to newer records that NARA accessioned since the formation of the NDC in 2010. The objective now was to prevent a buildup of a declassification backlog that stymied the original intent of President William Clinton's hallmark 1995 automatic declassification Executive Order 12958. The means of achieving this objective is to complete NDC quality assessments within two years of NARA's formal accessioning of the records. Staffing limitations still affect indexing operations, however, so there will always be a surplus of records awaiting this crucial work process. And DOE's quality-control work continues as well.

Another area that the backlog-free NDC can concentrate upon is a focus on the research public. While researchers have been appreciative of the work already done by the NDC in making classified records available, feedback from individuals, public interest groups, the State Department Historical Advisory Committee (HAC), and the Public Interest Declassification Board (PIDB) indicates that the NDC needs to pay more attention in this

area. In response, the NDC has identified records that may be responsive to the HAC and PIDB recommendations in order to push them more quickly through NDC processes. In addition, the NDC in late 2014 hired an archives specialist to work directly with researchers in the Textual Research Room at the National Archives at College Park in order to quickly identify records that could be indexed on demand along with other kinds of researcher assistance. Finally, the NDC instituted an Indexing on Demand program where researchers can request record series stacked in the indexing queue. A list of series in the indexing queue is the subject of the March 19, 2015, entry in the NDC blog.

The elimination of quality assessment backlogs has allowed the NDC to expand in a logical fashion into areas designed to promote the history behind newly declassified records. Even during the backlog elimination era, the NDC ran several projects that focused on particular records. The NDC hosted a pair of conferences on Berlin during the Cold War that featured newly declassified documents and panels with historians and eyewitnesses to the various Berlin events. The NDC also performed the final declassification of the Vietnam Task Force's Report on United States-Vietnam Relations 1945-1967, better known as the Pentagon Papers. There were subsequent projects on the Katyn Massacre during World War II and visa files on Jewish refugees in Shanghai China immediately after World War II that featured documents declassified by the NDC. The NDC will continue to produce similar projects and expand on them as researcher interest targets particular topics that can be readily processed in accordance with archival principles.

The challenging first five years of the NDC's existence inspired the invention of a new process, the re-invention of a traditional archival processing staff, and the application of both to the elimination of major roadblocks on making classified records available to the research public. The NDC's challenge over its second five years is to ensure that both process and staff remain viable in the never-ending effort to allow access to our nation's classified past.

Alex J. Daverede III is Director, Processing and Release Division, National Declassification Center, National Archives at College Park, Maryland. alex.daverede@nara.gov

Intelligence History

The Bureau of Intelligence and Research

The Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR) has proven to be a valuable component of the Intelligence Community. As part of the Department of State, its analysts advise the Secretary of State “with timely, objective analysis of global developments as well as real-time insights from all-source intelligence.” The Bureau’s work is strictly analytical, and removed from politics, not relying on its own surveillance tools or agents. Its work is comprehensive, looking independently at foreign affairs around the world, reviewing political, economic, and social developments, as well as public opinion polling in those areas. Their analyses inform diplomats, the White House, and other intelligence agencies, and the Bureau is the Department’s principal liaison with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI).

INR has its roots in the Office of Strategic Services’ Research and Analysis Branch, which later moved to the State Department. Unlike the CIA, it is only responsible for analysis and not covert action, and thus has a smaller staff of about 300. Many of the analysts are civil employees from academia, and many have been allowed to specialize for years on specific issues and regions. A 2004 *New York Times* article quoted Senator Pat Roberts that “They have a reputation for having personnel who have skills in one specific area, as opposed to being utility infielders.” Employees collectively speak 36 languages, and 71 percent have graduate degrees. Their wide-ranging responsibilities include WMD proliferation, cyber warfare, illegal drugs, and human trafficking.

That specialization has yielded some key successes in recent years. Its analysts warned against the presence of WMDs in Iraq before the 2004 invasion; Secretary of State Colin Powell adopted the CIA’s reports instead. Yet it erred, along with other agencies, in affirming the regime’s possession of chemical and biological weapons. It did correctly warn that Turkey would resist allowing U.S. troops to use its territory to reach Iraq, and it did not find evidence that Iraq was seeking uranium from Niger.



The INR has 19 offices specializing in specific geographic regions and critical issues, such as terrorism, narcotics, and other global matters, serving as “the focal point in the State Department for ensuring policy review of sensitive counterintelligence and law enforcement activities around the world.” Its Humanitarian Information Unit (HIU) shares information on humanitarian issues. Its Title VIII Program aims to ensure expertise by funding “research and language training to American scholars and students for the study of Eastern Europe and Eurasia.”

Few INR documents have been released. Its Reports to Congress on Military and Intelligence Aid to Burma, 2009–11 are online, as are a 1983 State Department report on Pakistan’s security situation, its nuclear program, and the future of Pakistani planning, and a report on Vietnam, 1961–1968.

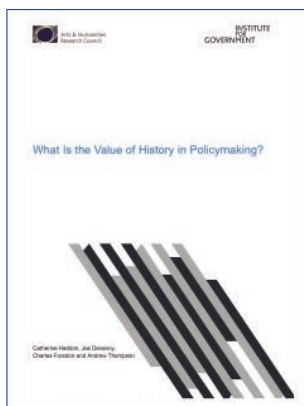


Members Meet Monthly

SHFG members and nonmembers have been meeting monthly following the Executive Council meeting at Vapiano in Chinatown, Washington, DC, at 5:30 p.m. (623–625 H St., NW). All SHFG members and nonmembers are welcome. It’s a great opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with historians, curators, educators, and others from the federal community. We hope to see you there. The next gathering is tentatively set for early May, and will be announced to members via the eBulletin. Contact SHFG President Carl Ashley at shfg@cashley.org for more information.

Bringing History to Policy Making

Historians can offer crucial skills and insights for government policy makers, yet they are often omitted from the planning process. This failure is a longstanding dilemma. Many agencies place little value on historians' views, while others value and include historians in policy development but fail to heed their advice. A new report from the United Kingdom titled "What is the Value of History"



explores the benefits of historical insights and the ways in which government offices can more systematically benefit from history. The report was co-authored by the Arts & Humanities Council (AHRC), one of several publicly chartered UK Research Councils, and the Institute for Government, an independent charity founded in 2008 to help make government more effective. Their findings emerged from their Making History Work Initiative seminars, and they bear great relevance for U.S. agencies.

Briefly, the report's findings fall into several themes. First, it finds that policy makers value history but that historical research is not used as systematically as that of other types of evidence, such as statistics, modeling, and economics. The historian provides context and a "conceptual toolkit" that promotes new ways of thinking about issues. Academic research can also help policy makers "frame" the terms of current debates. Second, agencies must develop methods for capturing institutional memory for use when needed. Establishing "strong data repositories" can help. Third, more training in policy history is needed, a need that speaks to civil service reform in the redefinition of the policy profession. Fourth, agencies should develop more fellowships and better relations with outside experts, including university programs. Fifth, departments should maintain advisory bodies more systematically to serve as links to outside experts. Sixth, archivists and historians must continually seek to understand "future archives," the evolving state of records preservation and access.

While the report is grounded in the UK's policy making environment, it is highly relevant to U.S. needs. Many of our own federal agencies face the same needs and practical and theoretical dilemmas. We now see successful policy making as a complex process involving better integration of expertise across federal and academic lines, one wherein we are "conscious of the range of actors and directions that it might take." See the report at <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/News-and-Events/News/Pages/What-is-the-value-of-history-in-policy-making-report-published.aspx>

Women in the Federal Government Oral History Project

The American Folklife Center provides information on 39 oral histories from the Women in the Federal Government Oral History Project, 1981–83 (http://www.loc.gov/folklife/civilrights/survey/view_collection.php?coll_id=2300). The collection contains oral histories of "black women who broke racial barriers, including Charlotte Moton Hubbard, who became deputy assistant secretary of state for public affairs in 1964, Eleanor L. Makel, who became one of the highest ranking black women in government during the Kennedy administration," and others. Additional interviews in this project, 1981–88, with other women of the 21st century, are with the Columbia Center for Oral History at http://oralhistoryportal.cul.columbia.edu/document.php?id=ldpd_4073685.



Isabelle M. Kelley

A partial transcription follows from the oral history with Isabelle M. Kelley, an employee of the Department of Agriculture, 1940–1973. She helped develop the Food Stamp Program and became its first national director in the 1960s, and served as an assistant deputy and administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service.

So very soon, the agency, including the deputy administrator and me, as the division director, were working very closely with the assistant secretary. . . . But clearly the pressures [on the White House] were too great, and I remember late in May of '69, four or five o'clock in the afternoon, Howard Davis and I were called to the assistant secretary's office, and there were three young men from the White House staff there, and subsequently Secretary Harden, whom I have met before, joined the meeting briefly, and they had decided, the White House had decided, that the time was right to send a message to the Congress on the hunger issue, which would be primarily limited to food stamps at that time, and that these young men were there to find that—were going to write the message overnight, and was going to be delivered the next day, and that they were there to discuss the details of the revisions. . . . and the next day the May 1969 hunger issue message was delivered to the Congress announcing that there would be a legislation nominated liberalizing the program, and that there would be an accompanying request for a substantial increase—several hundred million dollars, as I recall—to fund this program.

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From the Archives

The Attempt to Revive the SHFG's Link with the University of Maryland

By Chas Downs

In the President's Corner of the Fall 1994 issue of *The Federalist*, SHFG President Pat Harahan, announced that a committee consisting of Jack Shulimson, Phil Cantelon, and Sam Walker had begun discussions with University of Maryland representatives to explore the possibility of resuming an association with the University that had been terminated in 1990 for lack of financial support by the University of Maryland.

Those initial discussions were documented in a letter dated September 10, 1993, when SHFG President Jack Shulimson wrote to Maryland History Department Chairman Clifford Foust following up on a telephone discussion they had concerning resuming a jointly sponsored graduate fellowship. Shulimson also raised the possibility of the History Department providing remuneration to the student similar to that provided in the earlier association, and suggested possible projects. In separate letters to Foust and Robert Griffith, Dean of the Graduate School, Shulimson invited them to attend the SHFG Annual Meeting at the Holocaust Museum and to join him at lunch to discuss the proposed institutional link, as well as other cooperative efforts. In April, Shulimson reported to the Executive Council that discussions had gone well, but produced nothing definite. Disappointed with the lack of concrete results, SHFG President Pat Harahan decided to review the correspondence with University officials. He told the Executive Council on September 6, 1994, that Dean Griffith, a friend of Phil Cantelon, was interested and seemed willing to act, but the SHFG needed a specific plan by that fall, or they would have to look elsewhere for a partner.

On October 11, 1994, Shulimson described the meeting between himself, Phil Cantelon, and Sam Walker with Griffith and James Harris, in which they presented three initiatives: for Maryland to co-sponsor the Society's March 1995 annual meeting along with the National Archives; establish a series of seminars on contemporary research in federal history; and a possible institutional home for the Society at Maryland. Griffith and Harris were sympathetic to the latter proposal, but they had doubts

that they could convince their colleagues in the History Department of the benefits to the University and the Department that would accrue from such a relationship. The history faculty was to hold a long-term planning retreat in November, and asked that the SHFG provide a position paper outlining the long-term benefits of such a relationship and how it would fit in with their intern and fellowship programs. Shulimson suggested revising the proposals. Cantelon agreed, noting that an association with the SHFG could provide Maryland students with alternatives to academic teaching positions, with opportunities in public history in the federal government job market. Harahan asked Shulimson to draft a response to address Maryland's concerns. On October 27, 1994, Shulimson, as Chair of the Committee on Institutional Sponsorship, tried once more, writing the new chairman of the History Department at Maryland, James Harris. He again proposed a formal association between the SHFG and the History Department and perhaps other departments of the University. He also alluded to possible relationships with the Smithsonian Institution and the National Archives, and cited a possible clearinghouse of information on federal historical programs. Noting that the details would have to be worked out, Shulimson touted the potential benefits for both the SHFG and the University. On November 25, 1994, Shulimson told the Executive Council that the next move was clearly up to Maryland's History Department. A negative response would mean the SHFG would have to explore other options.

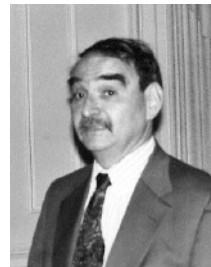
On April 4, 1995, Shulimson and Harahan told the Executive Council that they had met with History Department representatives once again, and were told by them that "it was not possible to assign a graduate assistantship to a part-time SHFG worker." This ended any chance of an institutional link between the SHFG and the University of Maryland, although the possibility of co-sponsoring lectures and joint seminars was still open. To learn more about the SHFG Archives, or if you have additional information or documentation on this or other SHFG matters, contact Chas Downs at chasdowns@verizon.net



Pat Harahan at the
1994 SHFG Reception



Sam Walker



Jack Shulimson

Exhibit Examines Alcohol in American History

The National Archives' has produced a new exhibit on the role and place of alcohol in our national life. Americans have come to terms with moderate consumption of alcohol since the 1930s, but it was not always so. We've always known a tension between our self-disciplined puritanical roots and personal, unregulated liberties. In the early republic, we learn, Americans drank about 7.1 gallons a year per person (now about 2 gallons) until drinking and its debilitating effects became a moral issue. That crusade of temperance steadily built support until Prohibition became national law in 1920. Repeal resulted from the recognition of the folly and dangerous results of abolishing drink. The exhibit traces these shifting trends and attitudes through government records that include artifacts, documents, still images, and motion pictures. Items include a recreation of one of the stills from George Washington's Mt. Vernon distillery; Washington's note on suppression of the Whiskey Rebellion; Navy records on distribution of the traditional half-pint daily rum ration for sailors; temperance posters; film footage of prohibition raids; IDs of



famed Prohibition agents like Daisy Simpson and Isidor "Izzy" Einstein; colorful patent labels for brands like Rolling Rock, Southern Comfort, and Night Cap Whiskey; a first edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*; and the glasses used by President Gerald Ford and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev to toast after the 1975 signing of the Helsinki Accords. These wide-ranging artifacts and many more help us see how alcohol touched all sectors of our social and political lives. "Spirited Republic" is a very enlightening exhibit that leads us through different perspectives on our past, not only highlighting the intersection of American politics and society, but forcing us to think about human nature and the role of tolerance for diversity and cultural freedoms in democratic life. See a video of the exhibit at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abXkEmqapeo&feature=youtu.be>

An eBook will soon be available at www.archives.gov The exhibit runs through January 10, 2016, at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC.

2015 Army Historians Training Symposium

The U.S. Army Center of Military History seeks papers for the Army Historians Training Seminar (AHTS) to be held July 27–31, 2015, at the Crowne Plaza National Airport in Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia. This biennial conference is the premiere U.S. Army–sponsored professional development event for its military historians. As such, the Center invites military historians from the Army Historical Program as well as the policy and academic communities to attend and present papers on the 2015 theme of "Adapting to Peace; Preparing for War; Responding to Crisis: An Unworkable Triad?"

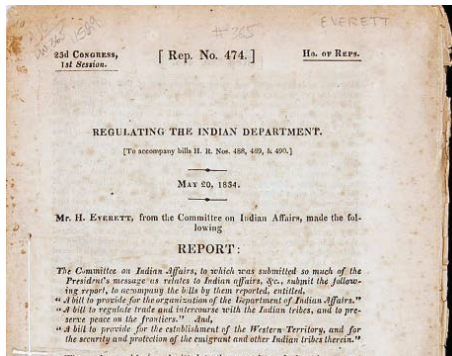
Papers may deal with any aspect of the U.S. Army's historical challenges when transitioning from war to peacetime. Papers that focus on demobilizing from the last war while restructuring for the next, preparing leaders for the challenges of the future, and the responsibilities of the Army during periods of relative peace are especially welcome. Additional topics may include organizing and planning for regeneration of wartime capabilities, the role of history in sustaining professionalism in the Army, and using the past to plan for the future, and prioritization of Army missions in an austere post-war fiscal environment.

Please send a detailed topic proposal and formal CV no later than April 15 to Conference of Army Historians, U.S. Army Center of Military History, ATTN: DAMH-FPF, 102 Fourth Avenue, Fort McNair, DC 20318-5054 or via email to Mr. Tom Crecca at thomas.w.crecca.civ@mail.mil. Tel: 202-685-2627.

Federal History at ASEH Conference

Discussion of federal government involvement in environmental policies figured prominently at the recent conference of the American Society for Environmental History in Washington, DC, March 18–22. Discussions included the effects of World War II on energy systems and the environment; Cold War nuclear studies, radioactivity, and strategies; regulation of food, waste, and air pollution; the effects of soil and water conservation projects in the 1930s; and the histories of the Canadian and U.S. park services. One presentation revealed connections between politics and federal bureaucracies, as in Representative Jamie L. Whitten's (D–MS) attempts to bring reclamation projects to his state by resolving jurisdictional disputes between the Army Corps of Engineers and the Soil Conservation Corps. Such developments suggest a "conservation-industrial complex." Another presentation on the Reclamation Bureau's projects to promote southern farmers in the 1920s raised questions of the Department of Agriculture's underlying motives to remove black farmers. A panel on the development of U.S. and Canadian national park systems brought out their differing paths of development and strategies, and the gradual increase in cooperation as the 20th century progressed. One talk discussed development of international cross-border national parks along the U.S.–Mexico border, the negotiations, problems, and changes brought by 9/11.

A Timeline of Federal History



The Indian Department is established in the War Department, 1834

The act of June 30, 1834, provided for the organization of the department of Indian Affairs.

A timeline of dates important for federal history work is now online at <http://shfg.org/shfg/programs/resources/timeline-of-federal-history/>

Please send comments and suggestions on the timeline to webmaster@shfg.org.

Report on Native American tribes that had been relocated west of the Missouri River, 1834.

COMMENTARY | Rethinking the Academic–Public History Divide

In a recent article on the ongoing divide between academic and public historians, Robert Townsend traces the roots of their differences farther back in time, noting that they arose “from patterns deeply rooted in a history that we all share and need to understand more clearly.” Looking at early 20th-century developments within the American Historical Association (AHA), for example, he notes that a number of prominent AHA members had contributed to vital history-related projects. J. Franklin Jameson at Chicago and Lucy Salmon at Vassar “were actively promoting documentary editing, historical societies, and other activities now widely recognized as public history.” Others, such as Solon Buck of the Minnesota Historical Society, pushed for improved archival standards. After the mid-1920s, the organization’s general outlook changed, and interest in those activities receded as AHA historians took a more narrowly academic and specialized view of their work. Townsend argues that new technologies such as the typewriter and index card, followed by the photostat machine and microfilm, led to new capabilities through which historians created new relationships, organizations, and then more specialized and technical standards. That heightening of the historian’s capabilities and expectations led to more specialization in research and writing interests. Those developments, in turn, created a real, and often hostile, division from others engaged in archival, museum, and military historical work, who developed such organizations as the Society of American Archivists and the National Council on Public History.

Townsend’s long view of generational changes in the profession suggests the need for periodic readjustments in everyone’s understanding of historical roles, capabilities, and standards. It also suggests that there will always be tensions and misunderstandings between academia and the public history spheres. Both sides have work to do. The only hope is for better understanding and appreciation between both historical communities, and continued cross-development of skills and duties. Both seek to advance knowledge; the differences lie in

audiences, methodologies, and perceived “standards.” Public historians have to aim for high standards in interpretive work, and academic historians must make their interpretive work accessible to public audiences.

Where does that leave federal historians, whom he does not specifically discuss? They also have much to prove, primarily that they can produce high quality work while also serving their agencies’ missions. There have been shortcomings in National Park Service interpretive work, as noted the report *Imperiled Promise: The State of History in the National Park Service*. Military service historians have in the past been accused of producing studies of limited scope, seeking lessons to be learned, not truth. And federal historians have been referred to as “court historians,” advancing what superiors seek to hear. Museums have often produced exhibits that are superficial, celebratory, and not thought-provoking. Yet federal historical workers serve essential roles for their agencies and nation. Many have been producing valuable, balanced, and complex work that has been well received by academic historians. They make important contributions to symposiums and published works alongside their academic cousins.

Federal historians and curators have an advantage, in the course of their duties, in their unparalleled access to large volumes of records, some of which may be classified, before those materials can be fully released publicly and digested fully by academic historians. They also reach a high volume of museum and park visitors, and have the opportunity to be on the forefront as innovators in history education. They can point to their access to often classified federal materials, and thus their capacity to offer invaluable insights to the story of government and institutional history. They need to do what they do best, with high professional standards, and continue to engage with academic historians in advancing our historical knowledge. See Townsend’s article at http://publichistorycommons.org/the-aha-on-the-path-to-public-history/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

Making History

Army Historical Foundation

The spring 2015 issue of *On Point: The Journal of Army History* is now available. Feature articles include “A Forty-Minute Korean War: The Soviet Defector Firefight in the Joint Security Area, Panmunjon, Korea, 23 November 1984,” by Col. Thomas Hanson; “The M28/M29 Davy Crockett Nuclear Weapon System,” by Matthew J. Seelinger; “William Washington,” by Eric Anderson; “The 95th Engineer General Service Regiment,” by Patrick Feng; and “One Soldier’s Experience in War,” by Ellen NicKenzie Lawson; “Fort Devins, Massachusetts,” by Nick McGrath. For information: www.armyhistory.org

The Foundation also announces a symposium titled “Violent Skies: The Air War over Vietnam,” scheduled for October 14–16, 2015, at National Defense University, Fort McNair. For information, email: matt.seelinger@armyhistory.org

Department of the Interior

The Department’s Museum will present “Twenty Years of International Partnership: Spotlight on Protected Areas Management in the Republic of Georgia” on Wednesday, May 6, 1:15 p.m.–2:15 p.m. in the Rachel Carson Room at the Interior Building in Washington, DC. Ken Mabery, lead technical adviser on this project, and International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP) incountry coordinator Paata Shanshiashvili will discuss how they have applied long-standing management practices successfully implemented in the United States to projects in the Republic of Georgia. The U.S. Agency for International Development has provided support to DOI’s ITAP to help the Republic of Georgia to establish and manage a public park system. This is the first in a series of presentations celebrating 20 years of ITAP’s work overseas.

Department of State

The Department of State has published two new volumes online: *Foreign Relations, 1950, The United Nations; The Western Hemisphere, Vol. II*, <http://go.usa.gov/3qk6C>; and *Foreign Relations, 1949, The Far East: China, Vol. VIII*, <http://go.usa.gov/3qkHG>.

History Associates Inc

History Associates is pleased to welcome Marlene Worhach as new Program Manager for collections management services. Ms. Worhach is responsible for client service, business development, and staff development. She advises clients on all aspects of managing art and artifact collections, including program and system assessments, inventory and cataloging, and appraisal and conservation. Ms. Worhach was previously Director of Marketing and New Business at ARTEX Fine Art Services.

Mike Reis has been named a Senior Vice President at the firm. He recently served as Director of Litigation Research from 2004 until 2015. Mike Reis will continue to serve as an expert witness historian in litigation engagements and will also focus on new business development. He has experience researching federal, state, local, and organizational archives relating to a wide range of legal issues. Mr. Reis has also provided deposition or trial testimony in environmental, toxic tort, building law, and historic preservation cases, as well as prepared numerous expert reports and affidavits in complex litigation.

History Associates’ Deputy Director Jason H. Gart, Ph.D., has been promoted as Director of Litigation Research. Dr. Gart, who has also served as an expert witness, will direct the day-to-day management of the company’s litigation research services. He will

Thinking About History

“Studs Terkel’s keen eye for the pervasive central social divisions and consequent political challenges of American life and lives shaped his historical narratives, making them at once a cumulative historical assessment and a sustained meditation on historical necessity. As a historian, he never forgot Marx’s enduring challenge that the point of understanding and interpreting the world ought to be to seek to change it.”

— MICHAEL FRISCH

“Studs Terkel, Historian,” The Oral History Review 41, No. 2, p. 278

“. . . museums are moving away from the mere display of objects and are now making their stories central to the visitor experience. Furthermore, they are exploiting the power of stories to foster emotional engagement. . . . The current challenge for museums as storytellers is how to successfully turn their institutional knowledge and authority into meaningful, engaging emotional experiences by leveraging the appropriate technological media in the context of their physical settings, and for heterogeneous audiences. In other words, how to “author” the rich experiences that they may want to offer and that their public expects.”

— MARIA ROUSSOU, LAIA PUJOL, AKRIVI KATIFORI, ANGELIKI CHRYSANTHI, SARA PERRY, AND MARIA VAYANOU

“The museum as digital storyteller: Collaborative participatory creation of interactive digital experiences,”

MW2015: Museums and the Web 2015. <http://mw2015.museumsandtheweb.com/paper/the-museum-as-digital-storyteller-collaborative-participatory-creation-of-interactive-digital-experiences/>

Military audiences often confuse history with commemoration, and while officers appreciate the value of primary sources, they often look for hard-and-fast lessons. Through study of history, military personnel can gain higher levels of comprehension that highlights the limits of military planning—“the matching of political ends and military means.”

— RANDY PAPADOPOULOS

Summary of historian Mark Stoler’s 2006 AHA presentation on the role and value of military historians. <http://www.smh-hq.org/gazette/aha.html>

continue to work with corporate and government clients to provide historical research and analysis in support of legal, regulatory compliance, and public relations issues.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NASA has published *The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics: An Annotated Bibliography* (Monographs in Aerospace, no. 55, December 2014), by Alice R. Buchalter and Patrick M. Miller. NACA was created in 1915 from recognition of the revolutionary importance of the advances in aviation, both for peacetime and wartime. The bibliography focuses on sources not published by NASA or the NACA, so researchers should be aware of several other series and publications. This bibliography references journal and newspaper articles, congressional hearings, books, papers, and reports.



SHFG DIRECTORY

SHFG maintains 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

The NACA Oral History Project transcripts are now online. The collection features persons associated with the Langley, Glenn (Lewis), and Ames Research Centers. Ongoing work is with individuals who worked at the former High-Speed Flight Research Station (now Armstrong Flight Research Center). The collection is at http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/history/oral_histories/naca.htm

Ongoing exhibitions at the Air and Space Museum include “Spying from Space,” “Hawaii by Air,” and “Repairing Hubble.”

National Archives and Records Administration

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

More than 400,000 new digital documents were added Dec. 15 to Franklin, the library’s virtual research room and digital repository. This addition now more than doubles its online digital resources. Franklin now provides free online access to a collection documenting the life, career, and accomplishments of Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury in the Roosevelt administration, including the Holocaust-era records of the War Refugee Board. The Morgenthau Diaries and Press Conferences are some of the most unique resources in the Roosevelt Library, according to museum officials. No other cabinet official kept as complete a record of his official activities and his relationship to the President than Henry Morgenthau, Jr. During Morgenthau’s nearly 12 years as FDR’s Secretary of the Treasury, he compiled more than 860 diary volumes. The daily records of Morgenthau include transcripts of his meetings and telephone conversations as well as copies and originals of the most important correspondence and memoranda that passed over his desk. These diaries were indexed by Morgenthau’s secretary, Henrietta Klotz. Morgenthau also maintained a private “Presidential Diary.” These diaries contain memoranda of his meetings with FDR, recollections of cabinet meetings and handwritten notes or chits passed between the two men. They provide a unique window into the personal and professional relationship of FDR and Morgenthau.

Records of the War Refugee Board—Morgenthau’s investigations into the State Department’s obstruction of rescue efforts and his presentation of the evidence to the President resulted in FDR’s creation in January 1944 of the War Refugee Board. As Treasury Secretary, Morgenthau served on the War Refugee Board, and the Board is credited with saving the lives of some 200,000 refugees. The Records of the War Refugee Board, significant portions of which are now available in Franklin, are housed at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum. This significant Holocaust-era collection includes insider’s descriptions of extermination camps such as Auschwitz and Treblinka, documentation of rescue efforts made by citizens and government agents alike, and correspondence with several major figures in international Jewish history.

The John F. Kennedy Library

Kennedy Library has organized a series of forums (listed at <http://www.jfklibrary.org/Events-and-Awards/Forums.aspx>). They include an April 22 screening of *Last Days of Vietnam*, a film by Rory Kennedy, youngest daughter of Robert F. Kennedy, followed by a discussion with Kennedy; May 4, A Conversation with David Brooks, *New York Times* columnist, on his book *The Road to Character*; and June 22, David McCullough discusses his new book on the Wright Brothers.

Gerald R. Ford Library

The Ford Library has opened the papers of three White House officials. Papers of Arthur Burns, ambassador to West Germany (1981–85): these include materials related to U.S.–West German relations. Papers of Robert Orben, comedy and speechwriter: these pertain to his role as head speechwriter and to his work on television shows. Papers of Frederic W. Slight: he was assistant to Counselor to the President Anne Armstrong, and the materials relate to efforts to improve the diversity of the federal workforce. Additional digitized collections are posted at <http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/docs.asp>

Jimmy Carter Presidential Library & Museum

The Carter Library has opened an online Digital Library through which researchers can view and download the papers of select White House offices. Completion of this enormous project will take time, but currently the Digital Library collection includes papers from the Office of the Chief of Staff and the Office of Staff Secretary during the Carter Administration. These materials now total tens of thousands of pages organized in PDF files of each scanned file unit. Hamilton Jordan’s Confidential Files as chief of staff are now posted. For the Office of Staff Secretary, approximately 89,000 pages of digitized textual records from the Presidential “Handwriting” files are now available. These files consist of correspondence, memoranda, notes, speeches, briefing material, daily schedules, press releases, photographs, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous printed material that represent the function of the Office of the Staff Secretary. The Presidential Files of the Staff Secretary Office primarily consist of the daily contents of the President’s outbox, filed chronologically according to the date when each item left the Oval Office. Visit http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/digital_library/sso/

National Institutes of Health

NIH staff held a successful Wikipedia event on Friday, March 13, to celebrate Women’s History Month. Staff from several offices appealed to the public to ask Wikipedians to contribute to biographical Wikipedia pages on women scientists. The results are still coming in, but the one-day results were 14 new stubs and 19 improved articles, for a total of 33 pages created and improved. A total of 43 photos were added. See Wikipedia pages for Margaret Pittman and Nina Braunwald for examples. Special thanks to Chris Wanjek, Barbara Harkins, and alumna Vicky Harden for their efforts.

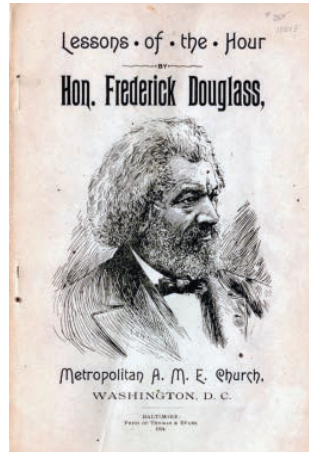
National Museum of Health and Medicine

The Museum’s new exhibit “An Extraordinary Enterprise: Medical Effects of the Civil War” runs March–December 2015. “The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion” represents one of the most extensive data collection efforts in the history of wartime medicine. Through complex stories and innovative graphics, “Medical and Surgical History” recounts an unprecedented effort to learn from the wounds and maladies of the Civil War.

The exhibit “His Wound Is Mortal: The Final Hours of President Abraham Lincoln” will be on display through 2015. It features artifacts related to the Lincoln assassination, including the bullet that killed the president. The Lincoln exhibit is part of NMHM’s observance of the 150th anniversary of Lincoln’s death, and NMHM. The Museum is open to the public daily and is located on the Fort Detrick-Forest Glen Annex in Silver Spring, Maryland.

National Park Service

The National Park Service celebrated the 197th birthday of Frederick Douglass on February 13 and 14 with special programs and activities at the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site. A special tour showed the archival materials related to Frederick Douglass. In addition to materials related to Douglass’s speeches and activities, the materials relate to the efforts to preserve his home by the 1950s civic association The Coordinating Committee of Anacostia and Vicinity.



U.S. Army Center of Military History

Acting Chief of Military History, Dr. Richard W. Stewart, reports in the spring 2015 issue of *Army History* on a successful year for the Army History Program. In addition to successful production of Army histories, providing information papers on Army issues to help Army decision makers, and running museums, he reports on the reinstatement of the Department of the Army Historical Advisory Subcommittee (DAHASC), a group of Army historians and civilian scholars that meets annually to discuss and evaluate the program and its publications. Professional development progress includes more training for historians, archivists, and museum professionals, the hiring of two Presidential Management Fellows, and the placement of career interns “for eventual placement throughout the Army.” In addition, the Field Programs and Historical Services Division helped provide information on and naming for Operation Restore Hope, a 1990s mission that involved thousands of troops in famine relief and combat missions during the political chaos in Somalia.

Articles in *Army History* include “‘Gone Blooey’: Pershing’s System for Addressing Officer Incompetence and Inefficiency,” by Richard S. Faulkner; “Art in the Trenches The World War I Paintings of Samuel Johnson Wolf”; and “Lee at Antietam: Strategic Imperatives, the Tyranny of Arithmetic, and a Trap Not Sprung,” by Steven W. Knott. The spring issue is available at www.history.army.mil/armyhistory/index.html

The Center has just published *The Atlanta and Savannah Campaigns, 1864*, by J. Britt McCarley. It covers the military operations in northern Georgia involving the Union army group led by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman and the Confederate Army of Tennessee commanded by Generals Joseph E. Johnston and John Bell Hood. The campaign consisted of numerous engagements, including the Battles of Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek, Atlanta, Ezra Church, and Jonesboro. The campaign ended with Sherman’s capture of Atlanta, Georgia, the Confederacy’s largest transportation and manufacturing center in the Deep South.

U.S. Forest Service

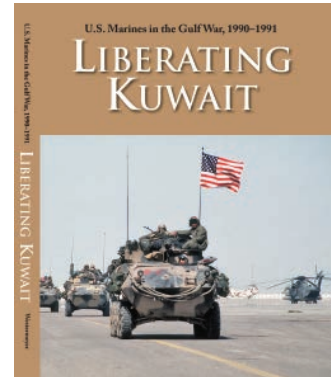
Allie Wenzl, historian for the Mt. Hood National Forest in Oregon, spent the month of February assisting USAID with Ebola

relief efforts in Sierra Leone and Liberia from the Washington, DC, office.

Heritage staff of the Manti-La Sal National Forest in Utah have partnered with Brigham Young University to digitize 64 boxes of historic grazing files, which include grazing permits and correspondence for hundreds of organizations and individual operators. The files document Utah’s livestock industry and its influence on natural conditions, settlement, and management of public land. They also serve as rich resources for genealogists.

U.S. Marine Corps History Division

The History Division has released *Liberating Kuwait* by Paul W. Westermeyer as part of the series U.S. Marines in the Gulf War, 1990–1991. The volume provides good background on the decisions involved, preparations for Desert Shield, the air war, the coalition of nations, the Battle of al-Khafji, “Breaking the Saddam Line,” and the removal of forces. Numerous images and maps are included, as well as nine appendixes providing such information as Command



and Staff List, chronology, aircraft types and distribution, and a briefing on Iraqi forces that was received on December 10, 1990. The author relied heavily on hundreds of interviews conducted at the time by five field historians, although there were gaps. New oral histories were necessary, and the author also used the Marine Corps Archives and extensive secondary sources. Reflecting on lessons learned, the author notes that although 383 soldiers died, the campaign was a success overall. There was the success of the feint of an amphibious attack, the success of the new LAVs (light armored vehicles), the poorly prepared and motivated Iraqi soldiers, and the effectiveness of the Marines’ training. All those factors made for the most successful Marine operation in history.

Veterans Health Administration

March 3, 2015, marked the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln’s signing of a national asylum act that authorized the first veterans facilities for discharged soldiers and sailors of the Union volunteer forces. The asylum became known as the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS), and was the origin for what evolved into today’s Veterans Health Administration. The VHA Historian is hosting a presentation by descendants of the National Homes’ first surgeon, Dr. B. B. Breed, on April 17, noon–1 p.m., in Room 230 of the VA Central Office, giving a presentation on the National Homes at the VA Voluntary Service’s National Advisory Committee in Albuquerque next month, and distributing special 150th anniversary history tidbits to staff that are being shared on VA Facebook pages.

Virginia “GiGi” Barrett Price has joined the National Cemetery Administration History Program as a historian. She will research and write historical reports for education, preservation, and restoration decisions. Formerly a historian at the NPS Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey (HABS/HAER/HALS), Ms. Price will support stewardship and preservation activities at VA’s national cemeteries through oversight of National Register of Historic Places nomination packages, the provision of briefings on interpretive/analytic investigations into NCA collections and historic landscapes, and the supervision of interns.



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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Federalist Calendar

Apr. 24–25, 2015. The Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG). “Across the Great Divide: Historical Research in a Digital World.” Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, Shepherdstown, WV. Visit <http://shfg.org/shfg/events/annual-meeting/>

June 25–27, 2015. Society for History of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). Annual Meeting. Arlington, VA. Visit: <https://shafr.org/conferences/annual/2015-annual-meeting>

July 16–19, 2015. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR). 37th Annual Meeting. Raleigh, North Carolina. Visit <http://www.shear.org/future-conferences/>

July 27–31, 2015. Army Historians Training Seminar (AHTS). U.S. Army Center of Military History. Crowne Plaza National Airport, Crystal City, Arlington, VA. Visit <http://www.history.army.mil>

Aug. 16–22, 2015. Society of American Archivists (SAA). 79th Annual Meeting. Cleveland Convention Center, Cleveland, OH. Visit <http://www2.archivists.org/conference>

Sept. 3–6, 2015. American Political Science Association (APSA). Annual Meeting. “Diversities Reconsidered: Politics, and Political Science, in the 21st Century.” San Francisco, CA. Visit <http://community.apsanet.org/annualmeeting/home>

Sept. 17–18, 2015. History Department, United States Naval Academy. McMullen Naval History Symposium. Annapolis, MD. Visit www.usna.edu/History/Symposium

Oct. 14–16, 2015. Army Historical Foundation. Symposium, “Violent Skies: The Air War over Vietnam.” National Defense University, Fort McNair. For information, email: matt.seelinger@armyhistory.org

Oct. 22–23, 2015. Center for Cryptologic History. “A Century of Cryptology.” Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory’s Kossiakoff Center in Laurel, Maryland. Call for Papers: Program Chair: Betsy Rohaly Smoot at ersmoot@nsa.gov

Jan. 7–10, 2016. American Historical Association (AHA). Atlanta, GA. Visit <http://www.historians.org/annual-meeting>

Mar. 29–Apr. 3, 2016. American Society for Environmental History (ASEH). “Environmental History and Its Publics.” Seattle, WA. Visit <http://aseh.net/conference-workshopsseattle-conference-2016>

Apr. 7–10, 2016. Organization of American Historians (OAH). Annual Meeting. “On Leadership.” Providence, RI. Visit <http://www.oah.org/meetings-events/meetings-events/call-for-proposals/>

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