ANNUAL CONFERENCE EXPLORES CURRENT CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS IN FEDERAL HISTORY

About 150 individuals attended the Society’s annual conference at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland, on March 8. The theme of “Current Challenges and New Directions in Federal History” guided sessions on historical work in wartime Iraq, military history and access to records, legislative resources and African American history, challenges for curators, research in intelligence archives, documenting Corps of Engineers work, approaches to oral history, samples of current graduate work using federal resources, careers in federal history, and other topics. And the Society’s annual awards presentation highlighted some exceptional work. The sessions and awards presentations are summarized below.

FIRST PANEL ROUND
Panel 1: Federal History and the War in Iraq
Chair: Carl W. Reddel (Eisenhower Memorial Commission)

A panel of three speakers provided an overview of the armed forces’ efforts to document military operations in Iraq. Richard Davis of the U.S. Army Center of Military History described the Center’s efforts, focusing on its role in coordinating the work of military history detachments and processing the material those units collect. Edward Marolda of the Naval Historical Center provided an overview of the Navy’s efforts to capture recent operational history, noting both the wide-ranging deployments that the Center’s civilian and reserve historians have completed, as well as the types of publications they have produced. LTC Jerry Brooks of the Joint Chiefs of Staff History Office described his office’s support for joint history operations, namely recruiting qualified historians for the various geographic and functional commands. Several themes emerged: the pivotal role that reserve historians have played in documenting events in Iraq; the importance of equipping historians with digital recorders, laptop computers, and a variety of hard drives to collect data in the field; and continuing challenges the historical community is facing in processing the mountains of electronic data its historians are collecting overseas.

Conference attendees enjoy the session on “Federal History and the Intelligence Community.”

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President’s Message
by John W. Roberts

In the Spring 2004 issue of The Federalist, sage Phil Cantelon—the former SHFG President who recently moved from President to Chairman of the Board of History Associates Incorporated—wrote that “If the Society is to survive with any vigor beyond the next decade, it must develop a vision and a plan for change. Otherwise it will simply grow old and retire with those who shaped the initial vision.”

The need for a professional association of those interested in federal history is as great now as it was when SHFG was established more than a quarter century ago, but the demographics have become reversed. When SHFG was young, its leadership was young. Although such senior historians as Richard Hewlett and David Trask were instrumental in coaxing SHFG off the ground back in the late ’70s and early ’80s, the energy, enthusiasm, and vision for the new organization emanated largely from a talented cadre of younger historians, most of whom had only recently become active in federal history programs. Since then, SHFG has drawn its leadership mainly from that generation, or from that generation’s slightly younger brothers and sisters (i.e., the mid- and late Boomers, as opposed to the pre-and-early Boomers who were the founders).

With the Boomers in SHFG, as elsewhere, constituting the pig bulging ominously from within the demographic snake, it is increasingly urgent to heed Cantelon’s warning that the Society cannot afford to age along with its founding cohorts. More than simply recognizing the problem of the Graying of SHFG, we need to reach out to younger historians, and to develop new programs that would attract them.

At its April meeting, the Executive Council set up a Strategic Planning Committee, to be chaired by Treasurer Peter Kraemer, that will attempt to formulate long-term plans in a systematic way. One of the issues the group will address will be the need to involve younger historians in the Society’s activities.

Not long ago, we introduced special membership rates for graduate students, and the Executive Council also has been discussing programs and activities geared to the interests and needs of younger historians—such as the Federal History Listserv that is about to be launched, small and informal seminars, and even sponsored events and receptions at museums, galleries, and elsewhere. During Don Steury’s presidency, we held a special reception for younger historians (mainly DC-area graduate students) in 2005, and several members introduced younger colleagues to SHFG by inviting them to the annual holiday reception last December. We have also been trying to establish contacts with graduate programs in public history at local universities.

Executive Council member Kristin Ahlberg has played a particularly energetic role in focusing attention on graduate students who may shortly be joining the ranks of federal historians. At her instigation, several SHFG officers and council members met with graduate students in Professor Kathy Franz’s public history seminar at American University last fall to discuss careers and programs in federal history. Professor Franz told me recently that she would like to make these visits a regular feature of her seminar. Ahlberg also coordinated an excellent session at this year’s annual conference, spotlighting current research by graduate students. I attended that session, and was highly impressed with the presentations of the graduate students, and extremely gratified with the enthusiastic interest that they showed in the organization. At least one of them even took a supply of SHFG membership brochures back to her university, to share not only with her fellow students but also with her professors. Being able to provide graduate students with what may be their first opportunity to present papers before a professional audience can be a great benefit for the students and for SHFG alike.

A good friend of mine muses that the best thing to be is an ex-Vice President of the United States. There’s no heavy lifting required, you get to circulate at A-List levels, and you are treated unfailingly with at least superficial deference. Similarly, much as I have enjoyed being President of SHFG, what I am really looking forward to is becoming an SHFG elder statesman. But serving as an elder statesman in an organization crowded with nothing but elder statesmen is a mighty thin brew. That is why I am banking on the success of our efforts to swell our ranks with younger members. As an ex-president, I want to be able to sit back and recount my stories and anecdotes to newcomers who haven’t already heard them 3 or 4 times. Heck, I might even learn a thing or two from the stories they have to tell. All of which is what passing the torch is all about.

John W. Roberts will complete his term as SHFG President in July 2007.
Chair: Matt Wasniewski (Office of History and Preservation, U.S. House of Representatives)

Matt Wasniewski summarized work currently underway at OHP, including an updated version of *Women in Congress* due out this month and a revised edition of the 1990 publication *Black Americans in Congress*. Laura K. Turner (OHP) discussed the crucial period after the Civil War when black Americans first entered Congress, with Senator Hiram Revels and Representative Joseph Rainey leading the way in 1870. By the 1890s, however, “black codes” and other restrictions upon political participation in the Southern states effectively disenfranchised blacks. Consequently, by the time George Henry White took office in 1897, he was the only African American in Congress. When he left office in 1901, nearly three decades passed before an African American again served in Congress. Kathleen Johnson (OHP) reviewed the theme of economic advancement of black Americans in the U.S. Congress, 1929–2007. Unlike the black Members of Congress of the 19th century, those of the 20th century primarily came from the North and West, particularly from Illinois, and included such role-model figures as Oscar De Priest, Adam Clayton Powell, and Charlie Diggs, who founded the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971. Christine Blackerby of the Center for Legislative Archives discussed the story of African Americans in Congress “As Told through Documents and Artifacts.” Drawing upon NARA’s “Teaching with Documents” program, Blackerby assembled a lesson plan for high school students, drawing upon the primary source documents in three thematic areas: civil rights, voting rights, and education.

Panel 3: Presenting Federal History to a Broad Public
Chair: Roger D. Launius (National Air and Space Museum)

Dik A. Daso of the National Air and Space Museum discussed the complex effort to create the Smithsonian’s 18,200-sq.-ft.-exhibit on American military history covering all of the nation’s wars. The three-year effort by a 200-person team was designed as an educational lesson on a broad scale. Artifacts drove the conception and design, with items ranging from uniforms and homefront items to a Huey helicopter. Jennifer Levasseur, also of the Air and Space Museum, explored the issue of how we have presented the realities of space and manned space flight from the early 1900s to the present. Those visual and educational presentations have consequences for museum effectiveness. NASA learned that it had to show not only charts of the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster but provide “proof” and public explanation. Harry R. Rubenstein of the National Museum of American History explored the issues that arise when museums attempt to present the problems and reality of American life—social issues. While the “celebratory” approach yields poor history, curators must strike a balance, he argued, between lecturing and letting the artifacts speak for themselves, as in the the Museum’s recent work on “sweatshops” and the *Brown v. Board of Education* exhibits. Ann Hitchcock of the National Park Service provided dramatic evidence of these concerns in the Park Service’s extensive work to preserve the 10 sites of World War II Japanese War Relocation Centers, especially at Manzanar and Minidoka. Through the decades, the Park Service learned the value of “civic engagement” with various groups and residents in the planning and preservation stages, to create “social capital.” Thus, scores of meetings led to accepted policy decisions on whether to simply leave building “footprints”; rebuild structures including barracks, latrines, and towers; and provide interpreters.
SECOND PANEL ROUND
Panel 4: Federal History and the Intelligence Community
Chair: Martin Gordon (Department of History, University of Maryland University College)

David A. Hatch of the National Security Agency traced President Eisenhower’s involvement in the advancement of intelligence work through new programs and greater efficiency. Eisenhower urged studies that led to reconnaissance programs, established a cryptologic institute, and promoted technology to speed intelligence transmission. These policies yielded great benefit to later generations. Donald P. Steury of the Central Intelligence Agency explored the story of American and British efforts to tap into Soviet cable networks in East Berlin during the Cold War, due to a gap in intelligence on Soviet activities in Eastern Europe. In a three-year effort, they dug a tunnel and used sophisticated methods to tap into the Soviet lines, yielding what appeared to be largely legitimate data. The value and volume of the intelligence lasted long after the discovery of the tunnel in 1956 and proved to be the major source of information on Soviet intentions and planning for defense in Eastern Europe. Michael Warner of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence provided glimpses into the upcoming State Department compilation of documents on the management of the intelligence community, 1950–55; the previous volume on 1945–50 had little on signals intelligence. While the new volume will yield no major revelations, it will document covert action against China, the Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe.

Panel 5: Federal History Under Contract: The Corps of Engineers’ Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP)
Chair: Paul Walker (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

The panel offered a unique look at this federal history project, for its members represent three different aspects of the contracting process: Matthew Pearcy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of History oversaw the preparation of the history; Matthew Godfrey of Historical Research Associates wrote it; and James Vearil, an engineer with the Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, provided technical advice. Pearcy gave readers an overview of the history and topography of the Everglades, discussed previous attempts to develop the area, and concluded with the rise of the environmental movement. Godfrey, the primary author of River of Interests: Water Management in South Florida and the Everglades, 1948–2000, described the challenges of writing a history that encompassed a variety of powerful interest groups and a host of state and federal agencies. Another important topic was conducting research: how could a contractor based in Montana conduct the necessary research and oral history interviews in a cost-effective manner? In the final presentation, James Vearil, noted that the current history of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project reflects the importance of the political and social sciences in ecosystem management.
THIRD PANEL ROUND
Chair: Richard McCulley (National Archives and Records Administration)

Independent scholar Andrew R. Dodge, in a presentation titled “The History of a Publication: The Story of the Biographical Directory,” reviewed the history of this venerable publication, which dates back to its first printing in 1859. He traced its publication history through various colorful editors and competing editions. Erin Hromada of the House Office of History and Preservation gave an overview of the online version of the Biographical Directory with her presentation, “Are You Familiar with the Online Biographical Directory?” Giving the audience a brief tour through the online database, which has been available since 1998, Hromada explained its many useful components for scholars, students, teachers, and genealogists. Robin Reeder, an archivist with the Office of History and Preservation, focused on the “Research Collections” of the online Directory, which includes listings of all known major (and many minor) archival holdings for every person who has served in the House or Senate since 1789.

Panel 8: Listening to Federal History: The Impact of Oral Interviews
Chair: John Lonnquest (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Brooke Fox of the Office of History, National Institutes of Health, discussed antiwar protests staged by NIH scientists, administrators, and support staff in the late 1960s. Her sophisticated presentation included video clips from a group oral history interview conducted with the surviving members of the “Viet Nam Moratorium Committee,” who described their antiwar activities. A former National Park Service historian, Janet A. McDonnell gave the audience an overview of the Service’s extensive oral history program at sites ranging from the U.S.S. Arizona National Memorial to the Central High School Historic Site in Arkansas. The value of oral history, McDonnell said, was helping history come alive through the voices of its participants, as well as helping the individual historic sites compile their own administrative histories. Chris Koontz of the U.S. Army Center of Military History gave the audience a description of the Center’s extensive oral history collection and described how many of the interviews were collected in the field by reserve military history detachments. In the question-and-answer period, the audience discussed the changing role and importance of oral history in light of the paucity of documentary evidence, and discussed the difficulty in finding and assessing the content of scattered oral history collections.

Panel 9: Federal History in a Military Context: Recent Research and Access to Sources
Chair: David Waltrop (National Reconnaissance Office)

Jim David of the National Air and Space Museum discussed recent issues in the area of declassification of federal records, reporting mixed progress under the automatic and systematic review process mandated by President Clinton’s E.O. 12956 in spring 1995. FOIAs and MDRs are not designed to review large sets of records. And with executive extensions, of the 2 billion records scheduled to be declassified on Dec. 31, 2006, about half, or 1.1 billion were released. He argued for release of all eligible records series with redaction of records rather than blanket pass/fail treatment of large batches of records, which effectively continues their classified status. David I. Goldman presented his research into government policies on germ and chemical warfare (CBWs) during the Nixon administration. Chemical accidents such as the one that killed 6,000 Utah sheep in 1968, and another that exposed military personnel in Okinawa in 1969 to chemical agents prompted investigations and public concern. While the Army urged continued research and a “stockpiling” of records, Nixon moved to eventual destruction of the stock. Michael Werner presented a controversial talk on “Black Confederates” in which he claimed to simply document blacks’ involvement in the Confederate effort. However, audience response was heated in the question-and-answer period, as some questioned why we need to pursue this story—blacks were undoubtedly coerced to serve in many cases. And the topic distorts the larger one of blacks’ dramatic pursuit of freedom in those years, giving excessive time to a minor chapter, and implying that they fought to uphold the slave system.

PANEL FOUR ROUND
Panel 10: Careers in Federal History: A Current Perspective
Chair: Peter Kraemer (Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State)

In this session, representatives of the emerging generation of federal historians spoke about the academic training, personal motivation, and professional development paths that led them to their individual careers. Suzanne Brown-Fleming of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, a self-described “local,” received her doctorate from the University of Maryland. Her current position as Senior
Program Officer for University Programs demands a balance of diverse roles as a researcher, educator, administrator, and even fundraiser in the service of the Museum’s public mission, yet has allowed her to remain active as a scholar. Jennifer O’Neal of the Department of State Legal Adviser’s Office of Treaty Affairs, spoke about her life as a sole historian and archivist “in an office full of lawyers,” including her impressive work to develop her office’s web site to disseminate information about current and historical treaties in response to statutory requirements for publication. Her experience demonstrates that there is a great need for historians and information-management professionals in unexpected places. Melissa Jane Taylor of the Department of State’s Office of the Historian described her work as a mixture of public intellectual and academic life: on one hand, her work as an editor of *Foreign Relations of the United States* has allowed her the “luxury” of pursuing an ambitious research schedule and learning opportunities that would be the envy of most academic historians in her field; on the other, her position included an enviable public dimension to enhance the accountability and transparency of the foreign-policy-making process by making crucial documents on U.S. foreign policy available to the public at large. The questions and discussion included topics of training and professional development, accountability and professional ethics, and even salary.

**Panel 11: Preserving Federal History: Perspectives on the Archives Project of the National Park Service**

*Chair: Michael Grimes (National Park Service)*

The National Park Service (NPS) has launched an ambitious effort to update and revise the finding aid for Record Group 79, the collection of its records held at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland. Renee Jaussaud, the NPS archivist for the three-year-long project, noted that her team was surveying all of the Park Service records accessioned by the College Park facility since 1966, and was also producing more detailed entries for some of the material covered in the 1966 finding aid. Jaussaud described the procedures her team used in surveying the records and noted that when complete the revised finding aid will be posted on both the National Archives and Park Service web sites. Matthew Kasprzak, a project archives technician with the National Park Service, gave the audience a summary of his experiences on the project, focusing on the challenges of surveying 2,100 boxes of records and writing series descriptions and administrative histories.

**Panel 12: Federal History Offices and the African American Experience**

*Chair: Benjamin Guterman (National Archives and Records Administration)*

Walter B. Hill, Jr., of the National Archives highlighted the agency’s decades-long work in the production of finding aids, or guides to records. He showcased a 1997 issue of the agency’s history journal, *Prologue*, that was dedicated to National Archives records concerning African Americans and the great variety of opportunities for research, as well as the recent guide he co-compiled with Lisha Penn on NARA records relating to civil rights in the post–World War II era. Penn discussed in more detail the variety of finding aids produced by NARA for textual, pictorial, and audiovisual materials, particularly the standard 1984 work by Deborah Newman titled *Black History*, as well as later guides relating to military records, black family research, the *Brown v. Board* decision, and the five-year Freedmen’s Bureau Preservation Project. Michele Gates Moresi of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) discussed the ongoing efforts of the Museum’s staff to reach out to the community for support and resources. The Museum’s goal to have international content and to collaborate with other institutions. They are selecting an architect and developing a web site. The first exhibit, “Let Resistance Be Your Motto,” will open in New York and then at the National Portrait Gallery. Patrick W. Andrus of the National Park Service discussed NPS work in preserving sites important to African American history, currently numbering 66 of 390 sites nationwide. An interesting example is Everglades National Park, which was an escape route for slaves. He provided extensive background information on the National Trails Program, National Heritage Areas, and the Network to Freedom (Underground Railroad) Program, as well as the National Historic Landmarks Program and the National Register of Historic Places. Resources for the public include travel itineraries based on historic sites.
SHFG CONFERS 2007 AWARDS

**HENRY ADMAS PRIZE**

Roger Launius (left) presents the Henry Adams Prize to Craig Nelson

**GEORGE PENDLETON PRIZE**

Robert V. Remini discusses his book, which won the George Pendleton Prize.

**JAMES MADISON PRIZE**

**JOHN WESLEY POWELL PRIZE**
(*HISTORICAL DISPLAY*)

Footage was shown of the award-winning USDA documentary “The Greatest Good.”

**CHARLES THOMSON PRIZE**

Matthew Pearcy (left) accepts the Charles Thomson Prize with FHQ editor Connie Lester, presented by Henry Gwiazda.

**THOMAS JEFFERSON PRIZE**
(*DOCUMENTARY EDITION*)

Edward C. Keefer (left) and Steven Phillips accept the Thomas Jefferson Prize, presented by Rebecca Raines and Matt Wasniewski.
The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) now has two history programs. The newest history office was established in May 2006 within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The National Cemetery Administration’s history program was the first to be established at the DVA in 2001. Both programs are imbedded within the Office of Communications in their respective administrations and have good working relationships with the DVA’s new Federal Preservation Officer, Kathleen Schamel.

The DVA’s history spans over 140 years, and the agency currently is comprised of three distinct administrations: Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), which administers veterans’ housing and education loans, insurance, disability claims and adjudication, and various other programs; the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) administers national cemeteries and other cemeteries under its jurisdiction, provides headstones and markers for deceased American veterans, the Presidential Memorial Certificate program, and the state veteran cemetery grants program; and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) — the largest of the three — provides health care to veterans through its hospitals, clinics, and numerous specialty and outreach programs.

The VHA’s ancestor of origin was the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS). Building on the existing models of their day, such as the U.S. Naval Asylum and U.S. Soldiers Home, the national homes were shaped by the ideals of 100 prominent American men who were appointed by Congress to serve on the original board of directors. The directors of the U.S. Christian Commission and U.S. Sanitary Commission, organizations that extended care to soldiers during the Civil War, were among those who served on the National Homes’ original board. While rendering care to Civil War soldiers was the primary function of the national homes, new wars created additional needs for services by other generations of veterans.

An amalgamation of government bureaus, agencies, and services created specifically for World War I soldiers was merged with those Civil War-era programs and institutions to become one entity when the Veterans Administration (VA) was created by Executive Order No. 5398 on July 21, 1930. The veterans of World War I were the primary “movers and shakers” who molded the VA into its modern 20th-century incarnation. Through their bonus marches and political activity, and by infiltrating the institution as employees and managers at every level, they spurred on changes within the administration and beyond that eventually led to landmark changes by mid-century that afforded better health care and benefits for veterans of all wars.

Since becoming a cabinet-level department and changing its name to the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1989, the DVA has seemingly reinvented itself and won numerous national awards and media acclaim for its many innovations and excellent health care. Some even suggest that the DVA should be the model for a national health care system. The history of VHA is fascinating and deeply entwined with the political, military, social, cultural, and medical/nursing history of our nation.

The VHA History Office will embrace all facets of public history, and its goals include establishing and building an archive, conducting oral histories, managing museums and collections, conducting primary research for site interpretation and publishing articles, providing internships and training opportunities for students, and promoting heritage education, outreach, and much more. Currently the program has one permanent staff person, but will grow in the future.

Immediate goals include securing appropriate space for archives and creating useful resources that will be made available to the public on the VHA History Office web page (pending). Two primary products are currently in development: The first includes placing the most recent but out-of-print history of the DVA, *Medical Care of Veterans* (1967), on the web site in PDF format. The book was not indexed when originally published, so preliminary talks with a professional indexer have begun in order to have the book indexed this year. Naturally, an updated institutional history is part of the program’s long-range plans.

The second resource that will be made available to researchers online is a database containing information on soldiers who were residents of the National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers after the Civil War. Currently, information from the first official report of residents, published in 1881 and covering the period 1866–1881, is being prepared. Researchers will be able to search by name, unit, or soldier’s home. Future plans include mak-
ing information from subsequent reports available as well.

A special joint-initiative between the VHA and the Library of Congress (LOC) Veterans History Project will kick off later this year. Known as the VHP-VHA Initiative, this national project will be part of the LOC’s Veterans History Project and record the oral histories of DVA doctors, nurses, medical staff, and administrative employees. Currently, 31 percent of DVA employees are veterans, and many of them have never participated in the Veterans History Project. This special initiative will capture stories of veterans and non-veterans, alike, in order to document the history of the DVA/VHA, record the stories of DVA employee veterans, and follow their transition into civilian life, essentially recording the evolution of government medical care of veterans at the DVA. As part of the project, the creation of an oral history training video is also planned.

For further information about any of these initiatives, please contact the author at Darlene.richardson@va.gov.

Darlene Richardson is historian of the Veterans Health Administration, Washington, DC.

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**LIBERTY MEMORIAL GAINS LANDMARK STATUS — AND MORE**

*By Mark Levitch*

Last year proved a banner year for raising the national profile of Kansas City’s Liberty Memorial. In September, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne designated the breathtaking memorial as Missouri’s 36th national historic landmark, recognizing both its role in memorializing World War I service and its notable design. In December, the Memorial’s museum complex, vastly expanded and modernized, was rededicated as the National World War I Museum. These actions, one hopes, will bring the erstwhile little-known memorial complex, and the war itself, greater prominence in the nation’s cultural and historical landscape as we approach the centennial of the war’s 1914 outbreak.

Why Kansas City? Awash in the patriotic fervor that swept the nation at the war’s end, city leaders held a mass public meeting to discuss a monument just two weeks after the signing of the Armistice, and in fall 1919 a quarter of the city’s residents contributed to a 10-day fund drive that raised $2 million for a proposed monument and museum. H. Van Buren Magonigle, a high-profile New York architect, won the heated national competition for the project. Magonigle’s proposal was sober and muscular: a soaring 217-foot central tower flanked by two severe limestone-clad buildings, with massive art deco allegorical sculptures adorning both the tower and the plaza below. Nearly 200,000 people attended the 1921 groundbreaking ceremonies, which also featured the only gathering in history of the principal Allied military leaders. President Coolidge presided at the opening of the complex in 1926.

The Memorial has had its ups and downs. In the 1950s it garnered the Panthéon de la Guerre, a celebrated French World War I panoramic painting, and installed an abridged version of it in the building known as Memory Hall. But in the 1970s and 80s, the park surrounding the monument developed a reputation as a dangerous place. Then, in 1994, an inspection questioned the Memorial’s structural...
integrity, leading to its immediate closure. In 1998 city voters widely approved a temporary sales tax increase to pay for extensive renovations, as well as for the hollowing out of an immense underground space for a future museum. After many fits and starts, the renovated tower and two buildings were reopened in 2002.

Further fundraising and a city bond issue led to the completion of the 30,000-square-foot museum that opened in December. The new museum presents and interprets WWI artifacts from all combatant nations that the Memorial has been collecting since the war’s end, a collection that is unparalleled in the United States, including armaments, posters, uniforms, and soldiers’ diaries. The museum intelligently emphasizes the comprehensive nature of the conflict rather than focusing particularly on U.S. participation, and it also stresses the factors that led to the war and the disputes—many still unresolved—that followed in its wake.

The museum is high-tech, interactive, and impeccably installed. To enter the exhibition space, visitors cross a glass bridge suspended dramatically over a field of 9,000 poppies, each representing 1,000 military fatalities. The trench experience is evoked through a recreation that also includes the sounds of rats, rain, and soldiers in pain or reciting diary entries. Video, audio, and simulations aim to present historical situations as people saw them at the time.

As part of its drive to become the nation’s leading educational institution and resource on the First World War, the National World War I Museum is avidly reaching out to teachers, scholars, and the public. It has developed a First World War curriculum for middle schoolers, is sponsoring a Great War film series (in association with National Archives and Records Administration–Central Plains Region), and has established a 20,000-square-foot research center that is sure to attract Great War scholars. The renovated Memorial and expanded museum have made a strong case for raising the profile of World War I in the national imagination. Time will tell whether their efforts have been successful.

Mark Levitch, a Ph.D. candidate in art history at the University of Pennsylvania, was previously an intelligence analyst at the State Department and a graduate curatorial fellow at the National Gallery of Art. He lives in Washington, DC, and is author of Panthéon de la Guerre: Reconfiguring a Panorama of the Great War (University of Missouri Press, 2006).
MAKING HISTORY

AIR FORCE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

The Air Force Historical Foundation invites proposals for papers and presentations for its 2007 symposium to be held October 16–17, 2007, in Arlington, Virginia. The conference theme is “The Evolution of Air and Space Power: Know the Past—Shape the Future.” The Program Committee of the AFHF welcomes proposals for presentations that may encompass leadership, technology, doctrine, planning, operations, and roles and missions within any of three general themes: “War in the Shadows” (special operations, rescue, CSAR, and other low-intensity operations or operations at the lower end of the spectrum of conflict); “Conventional War” (air superiority, counter-air operations, CAS, airlift, air-breathing ISR, etc.); “Space and Cyber War” (including all the military uses of space such as ISR, communications, navigation, etc.). Proposal deadline: May 1, 2007. See www.afhistorical-foundation.org for application form and instructions. Send materials to Air Force Historical Foundation, 1535 Command Drive, Suite A-122, Andrews AFB MD 20762-7002; Phone (301) 736-1959, Fax (301) 981-3574, E-mail: afhff@earthlink.net

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

At the AHA’s 121st Annual Meeting this past January 4–7 in Atlanta, GA, the Council passed the following resolutions: http://www.historians.org/press/2007_01_08_Resolutions.cfm. It also made the following decisions: http://www.historians.org/press/2007_01_08_CouncilDecisions.cfm Complete details are available on the AHA’s press page: http://www.historians.org/press/index.cfm The AHA began a blog, called AHA Today, in September of 2006: http://blog.historians.org/ The blog covers news from the association, like what’s happening on the web site, council decisions, and new publications, but also has postings on online resources, news that affects the history profession, articles on education, and more. There is also a new feature, titled “Grant of the Week” that goes up every Friday: http://blog.historians.org/grants/ The AHA’s 122nd Annual Meeting will take place January 3–6, 2008, in Washington, DC. Session proposals are accepted until February 15. The theme of the meeting is “Uneven Developments.”

DEPARTMENT OF STATE


FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

FDA historians John Swann and Suzanne Junod were actively involved in commemoration of the FDA’s centennial year and passage of the historic 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act. The Food and Drug Law Institute published a commemorative book with images and information from the FDA History Office and its historians entitled A Century of Consumer Protection. Dr. Junod published a series of articles in FDLI’s publication Update which took a humorous perspective on the passage of the act based on cartoons from turn-of-the-century publications Puck, Judge, and The Wasp (see www.fda.gov/oc/history/default.htm). Dr. Swann worked with the Office of Public Affairs to create a web site featuring weekly historic vignettes for FDA’s web site that will be transferred to the History Office web site this year.

The historians answered innumerable requests for information, photos, and written articles. They also gave many talks at centennial events and trade conferences around the United States, created individualized regional history exhibits for each of six regional centennial celebrations, including one co-sponsored by the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia, and worked to get historical articles written and published in many different publications.
**History Associates Incorporated**

James Lide, director of History Associates Incorporated’s (HAI) International Division, has contributed a chapter to a recently published book surveying thousands of previously classified government documents concerning Japanese war crimes. “Recently Declassified Records at the U.S. National Archives Relating to Japanese War Crimes” is one of six chapters in *Researching Japanese War Crimes Records: Introductory Essays*. Lide used documents from the Office of Strategic Services, the CIA, State Department, FBI, Army Intelligence, National Security Agency, Office of the Pardon Attorney, Air Force, and Navy. He concluded that while most of these documents did not bear directly on the issue of Japanese War Crimes (the Japanese military destroyed most of its pertinent records in the final days of World War II), numerous documents were relevant and almost entirely untapped by historians. The book has just been published by the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group (http://www.archives.gov/iwg/). It is available in print and online http://www.archives.gov/iwg/japanese-war-crimes/introductory-essays.pdf.

Garry Adelman, deputy director of HAI’s History Division, is tracking down the source, location, and copyright status of more than 800 images slated for use in a new museum and visitor center at Gettysburg National Military Park. Scheduled to open in 2008, the museum will offer an enhanced experience for the nearly two million annual visitors to the famous Civil War battle site. Adelman is securing imagery from more than fifty repositories and individuals including the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and the U.S. Army Military History Institute. The image effort is but a small part of the roughly $100 million museum. For information about the Gettysburg Foundation or the new museum and visitor center, call 1-866-889-1243 or visit www.gettysburgfoundation.org. For more information about image collection or History Associates, call (301) 279-9697 or visit www.historyassociates.com.

**Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents**

The 36th annual Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents will be conducted June 18–23, 2007, in Madison, Wisconsin. Activities include lectures and presentations by experts on various topics related to documentary editing. This year’s topics include: document selection and annotation; transcription; indexing; publishing an edition; fundraising and promoting the edition; and electronic publishing. Applications can be obtained from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) or printed out from the NHPRC web site at: http://www.archives.gov/nhprc/partners/editing-institute.html More information is available at the Wisconsin Historical Society’s web site at: http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/about/campedit/index.asp.

**Joint History Office, Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

The Joint History Office (JHO) recently published Walter Poole’s *The Effort to Save Somalia, August 1992–March 1999*, which covers the role of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) and the Joint Staff in planning and directing the operations in Somalia. Dr. Poole relied primarily on Joint Staff files and interviews as sources of information.

Two new volumes in the series *The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the War in Vietnam* are being prepared for publication by the Government Printing Office. *The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the War in Vietnam, 1954–1959* by Willard Webb has been reviewed and updated by Dr. Jack Shulimson. *The Joint Chiefs of Staff and the War in Vietnam, 1971–1973*, also by Mr. Webb, has been updated by Dr. Poole, who added new material drawn from the classified diaries of Adm. Thomas Moorer, the CJCS from July 1970 to July 1974. The final unpublished volume in the Vietnam series covering the period 1960–68 is currently being revised and updated by Dr. Shulimson and Dr. Graham Cosmas.

Dr. Ronald Cole’s manuscript on Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY has been declassified and is being prepared for publication. Publication of Cole’s monograph will continue the series of monographs that he has written covering Operation URGENT FURY in Grenada and Operation JUST CAUSE in Panama. Cole is currently updating *The History of the Unified Command Plan, 1946–1999*.

The Joint Operational History Branch (JHO) continues to provide staff supervision for the historical offices of the combatant commands and coordinate support for the historical coverage of deployed joint headquarters. Currently, LTC Howard Feng, USAR, an archivist at the National Archives, is serving in Baghdad as the historian of the Multi-National Force – Iraq. CDR Lynn Downing, USNR, is serving as the historian for the Multi-National Corps – Iraq. A member of the JHO staff, LTC Robert Smith, USAR, is on active duty to document Joint Staff activities in planning and directing operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.
**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**

The NASA History Division has awarded independent historian Dr. Andrew Butrica a contract to write a book to narrate the history of deep space navigation since the inception of NASA. The goal of this research project is to produce a roughly 400-page manuscript history on the views of scientists, engineers, policymakers, enthusiasts, and the general public regarding deep space navigation. The history will include discussion of the latest developments in deep space navigation, such as very long baseline interferometry using both Deep Space Network techniques and those developed at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory. The NASA History Division will administer this project jointly with the NASA Science Mission Directorate.


The NASA History Division and the National Air and Space Museum History Division will host a conference on the 50th anniversary of the Space Age, in Washington DC, October 22–23, 2007 in conjunction with the 50th anniversary meeting of the Society for the History of Technology. The conference is titled “Remembering the Space Age,” and encompasses two main themes: 1. National and Global Dimensions of the Space Age, and 2. Remembrance and Cultural Representation of the Space Age.

**National Archives and Records Administration**

NARA's new exhibit, “School House to White House: The Education of the Presidents,” opened March 30 and will continue through January 1, 2008. It features documents, artifacts, photos, and films from the collections of the presidential libraries. The new exhibit “New York: An American Capital” opened at Federal Hall in New York City in cooperation with the National Park Service, at the site where the first U.S. Congress met. Additional cooperative efforts are planned at the site in the coming years.

... Kansas City Star Books has recently published a book showcasing the holdings of the Kansas City regional archives. Brian Burnes’s *Great Plains Originals: Historic Documents from America’s Heartland* showcases scores of treasures gathered from the roughly 50,000 cubic feet of records housed at there. The volume is available at [www.thekansascitystore.com](http://www.thekansascitystore.com).

The Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group (IWG) announced the availability of 100,000 pages of recently declassified records as a result of a search for files relevant to Japanese war crimes, a search mandated by the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Disclosure Acts. The declassified records are open and available at the research room of the National Archives at College Park, MD. *Researching Japanese War Crimes Records: Introductory Essays* and an electronic finding aid will help researchers locate and use the thousands of files. Free copies of the printed book and finding aid (on CD-ROM) can be ordered by sending an e-mail to iwg@nara.gov and are available while supplies last. Both publications may also be downloaded directly from [www.archives.gov/iwg/japanese-war-crimes/](http://www.archives.gov/iwg/japanese-war-crimes/). The guide *Pre-World War I Records of the Imperial German Navy and Its Predecessors, 1822-1919*, by Timothy Mulligan, is now available. It is number five in the series *Guides to Microfilmed Records of the German Navy, 1850–1945*.
The guide is available free of charge from the Research Support Staff (NWCC2), 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; telephone 1-866-272-6272 or 1-800-234-8861; fax 202-501-7170...Kansas City area archivists will host a symposium titled “Archival Access Issues” on May 24 at the Eisenhower Library. ...NARA produced 51 new microfilm publications in 2006. Visit http://www.archives.gov/research/order/orderonline.html?microfilm to search them. The Freedmen’s Bureau Preservation Project has been completed. See http://www.archives.gov/research/african-americans/freedmens-bureau/ for full information. ...On January 10, Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein and Footnote, Inc. CEO Russell Wilding announced an agreement to digitize selected records from the vast holdings of the National Archives. The 4.5 million pages that have been digitized so far are now available at www.footnote.com/nara. ...The spring issue of Prologue: Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration, and Reference Information Paper 113, Federal Records Relating to Civil Rights in the Post-World War II Era are now available. ...A web-based Presidential Timeline (www.presidentialtimeline.org) filled with digitized artifacts and historical archives from all of the U.S. presidential libraries has been created through the efforts of the 12 presidential libraries of the National Archives and Records Administration, the Learning Technology Center of The University of Texas at Austin’s College of Education, and the UT Library system. The Presidential Timeline Project was made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as funding from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation and UTOPIA, a digital gateway to The University of Texas at Austin’s educational resources.

National Museum of American History

In a special ceremony on January 30, 2007, Dr. Robert Jarvik, developer of artificial hearts, donated the Jarvik 2000 FlowMaker Heart Assist Device to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. In addition, Dr. Jarvik is lending the museum the Jarvik 7 artificial heart that was implanted in dentist Barney Clark in 1982. Both the Jarvik 7 and Jarvik 2000 artificial hearts will be on view in the museum’s “Treasures of American History” exhibition at the National Air and Space Museum.

National Preservation Institute

The Institute (NPI) has released its schedule of Professional Seminars in Historic Preservation & Cultural Management for March–December 2007. These seminars bring distinguished faculty to highlight state-of-the-art practice in important areas of historic preservation and cultural resources management. Classes are available in various cities nationwide. Among the classes offered are Consultation and Protection of Native American Sacred Lands; Identification and Evaluation of Mid-20th-Century Buildings; Historic Structures Reports: A Management Tool for Historic Properties; and Section 106: How to Negotiate and Write Agreements. Also, through an NEA grant, NPI offers scholarships to cultural resources and historic property managers and volunteers who might not otherwise have the means to attend an NPI-sponsored seminar. For more information, call 703-765-0100 or e-mail info@npi.org. Web site: www.npi.org.

National Security Agency, Center for Cryptologic History

The historian David Kahn (SHFG’s 2004 Hewlett Lecturer) will present the inaugural Henry F. Schorreck Memorial Lecture at 1:30 PM on May 24, 2007, at the Maryland Conference Center located near Fort Meade, MD – just off the Baltimore-Washington Parkway near Route 32. Dr. Kahn’s talk will focus on unanswered questions in cryptologic history and is open to the public at no cost. Those interested in attending should contact Barbara Herzog at the Center for Cryptologic History at 301-688-2336 to reserve a seat.

Naval Historical Center

The 2007 Naval History Symposium will be held on Sept. 20–22 in Annapolis, MD. Visit www.usna.edu/History/Symposium.htm for details. Additionally, the Naval History Seminar has announced the latter part of its 2007 schedule. Each of these seminars will be held in National Museum of the United States Navy, Bldg. 76, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC. For additional information, contact the Senior Historian, Naval Historical Center, Dr. Edward J. Marolda, at (202) 433-3940 or Edward.Marolda@navy.mil.

“Reinvigorating NATO’s Naval Strategy: Challenge and Response of the 1960s” by Robert Davis. 12:00-1:00 on Tuesday 17 April 2007.

“Amirs, Admirals, and Desert Sailors” by Dr. David F. Winkler 12:00-1:00 on Tuesday 15 May 2007.

“The Long Ride of the Surface Warrior, 1942-1944” by James Hornfischer. 12:00-1:00 on Tuesday 19 June 2007.

Recent publications of the Naval Historical Center include: Edward J. Marolda, ed. The U.S. Navy and the Korean War (Naval Institute Press, 2007); Robert J. Schneller, Jr., Anchor of Resolve: A Short History of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Fifth Fleet (Naval Historical Center, 2007); John Darrell Sherwood, Black Sailor, White Navy: Racial Unrest in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War Era (New York: New York University


**United States House of Representatives Office of History and Preservation**

The U.S. House of Representatives Office of History and Preservation is pleased to announce several new publications and staff additions. Recent publications include *Records Management Guidelines for Members of the House*; House “Art and History” (a Web page located on the Clerk of the House Web site: http://clerk.house.gov/art_history/index.html); *Women in Congress, 1917–2006*, the first in a series of volumes on minorities in Congress (now available for sale from the Government Printing Office); and *Fourth Report of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress* (ACRC), which highlights congressional documentation issues such as: the increasing volume and complexity of the records of individual members of Congress, the conversion of electronic records in Member and committee offices, and the dispersal of Members’ papers to numerous institutions within each state. (This report, House Document No. 109-156, will eventually be available on the Web; print copies are available from the Government Printing Office: http://bookstore.gpo.gov.)

The Office of History and Preservation continues to grow with several staff additions and promotions in the past 18 months. In late 2005, Felicia Wivchar, a graduate student from George Washington University, joined the office as a curatorial research assistant. In December 2006, Terrance Rucker, a graduate student from GWU, joined OHP as a writer and researcher. Additionally, in 2006, former researchers Erin Hromada and Kathleen Johnson assumed duties as historical publications specialists. Hromada is focusing on Web publications, while Johnson is developing the office’s oral history program. Also in 2006, House Curator and OHP’s acting chief Farar Elliott was named office chief.

**United States Marine Corps, History Division**


**United States Senate Historical Office**

The Senate Historical Office has added the transcripts of two new oral history interviews to the Senate Web site (www.senate.gov/history/oralhistory): Martin Gold, one of the foremost experts on Senate procedure, and Arthur Rynearson, an expert in foreign policy-related legislation.

**University of Maryland, College Park, Department of History**

The History Department at Maryland, College Park seeks to place its student interns at area organizations and institutions. Please contact Dr. Julie Taddeo at taddeo@mail.umd.edu if you would like to announce upcoming internship positions and application procedures on their web site.
FEDERALIST CALENDAR


