The American Indian Digital History Project
By Kent Blansett and Jason Heppler

The American Indian Digital History Project (AIDHP) is an innovative digital project that seeks to collect, preserve, and disseminate rare Tribal documents that will inspire future scholarship and community archiving all across Native North America. Soft launched in November 2017, AIDHP seeks to form a digital cooperative in partnership with Tribal communities, Tribal Colleges, Native organizations, libraries, and the larger public in order to digitize key primary sources that hold vast significance as historical records. This digital cooperative affords us with the opportunity to partner with Native peoples and the public to promote the recovery, preservation, and protection of invaluable Tribal archival and primary source materials. The project builds off new and existing partnerships established at the University of Nebraska at Omaha as we seek to promote further research and accurate reporting about the historical experiences of Indigenous communities throughout North America.

AIDHP’s first project was to digitize Akwesasne Notes, one of the most significant twentieth-century Native newspapers in America. Our goal is to make these invaluable sources free, accessible, and available to the wider public via our website. Recently we uploaded a near complete collection of Honga which was the former newsletter for the Indian Center located in Omaha, Nebraska. We are also working to digitize a complete collection of the former journals for the Society of American Indians and the magazine Indian Voice. Searchable access to each of these Tribal documents can encourage more accurate and responsible research in the interdisciplinary fields of Native American and Indigenous Studies.

Beyond academics, Tribal governments and communities and the greater public can benefit from a cooperative digital archive. The central idea of a digital research cooperative is to convince more universities, researchers, archives, and other institutions into becoming AIDHP members. With training from AIDHP, each member can launch their own sites that collect and digitize rare archival sources from their particular region, creating an Indigenous JSTOR.

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President’s Message

Jessie Kratz

Next year marks the 40th anniversary of the Society for History in the Federal Government. We’re busy preparing to celebrate by planning special events for our annual meeting in April, holding an anniversary-themed Hewlett Lecture in 2019, and creating a new logo, among other ideas. We are also asking our members for their input—let us know how the Society can mark this special year by sending a note to: shfg.primary@gmail.com.

The Society traces its roots back to a September 13, 1979, program sponsored by the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History (now the National Coalition for History). During the program Jack Holl, historian at the Department of Energy, asked to speak about the need for an organization of non-academic, federal historians. He had been meeting with other federal historians who had similar concerns, and this public call set the Society’s establishment in motion.

Over the next several months a group of historians formed a committee tasked with creating the Society’s organizational structure, drafting a constitution, and soliciting input on what the Society’s goals should be. They also came up with the name Society for History in the Federal Government, and opened the organization up to anyone interested in federal history. Members could join for the bargain fee of $10, and on April 16, 1980, the Society held its first annual meeting.

Early issues for the Society were centered on concerns over the National Archives. One of the Society’s earliest battles was the General Services Administration’s (GSA) management of the agency. When Congress established the National Archives in 1934 it was independent. However, in 1949, Congress moved the National Archives into the newly created GSA. This move put a cultural institution that stores, protects, and provides access to the nation’s most valuable historical records under a strictly administrative agency. In November 1979 the Administrator of GSA, Admiral R.G. Freeman III, citing space and cost concerns, announced his intention to move some records from Washington, DC, to other locations around the country. The budding Society opposed this decision since it would make access more difficult—especially for federal historians based in DC who needed to access the records on a regular basis.

Another issue the young Society addressed was the severe budget cuts under the Reagan administration, and the impact of those cuts on access to records. But the biggest role the Society played was to help the National Archives become an independent agency. Over a four-year period, the Society worked to get the Archives moved out from under GSA, with Society members even testifying before Congress. Their efforts paid off in November 1984 when Congress passed legislation making the National Archives independent once again.

Nearly 40 years later I’m grateful to the Society for their efforts in relation to the National Archives, both in the beginning and over the years. In fact, the Society played a major role in the creation of my position as Historian of the National Archives when they lobbied current Archivist David Ferriero to create the position in 2012.

As we look back over the last 40 years let’s also look to ahead to how the Society can improve moving forward. Visit shfg.org to find a link to a survey on how the Society can better serve its members in the 21st Century. The survey will be open until October 1, 2018.
Editor’s Note

Accessibility is a critical component of projects that pertain to the history of the federal government. Particularly for those of us who are public servants within government, or who work outside of government in public history fields, the wide, equitable and, increasingly, digital dissemination of historical information is essential. In this issue of The Federalist, Kent Blansett and Jason Heppler explain how they are improving access to Tribal documents online through The American Indian Digital History Project. Patrick A. Lewis describes how the Kentucky Historical Society’s Civil War Governors of Kentucky Digital Documentary Edition approaches the study of how people in the 19th century interacted with government. Tracy Baetz, Chief Curator of the museum at the Department of the Interior, highlights the past, present, and exciting future of public programming at the museum in the History Professional feature. In the Internships in Federal History profile, Bethany Henry Rosenbaum describes how her experiences have informed her work as a National Park Service Pathways intern. Karin Wulf, co-founder of Women Also Know History, highlights the purpose and methods of this new online collective. I hope that women in the SHFG community who have not already done so will consider establishing a profile page at womenalsoknowhistory.com, and that all SHFG members will be able to use Women Also Know History when organizing conference panels or inviting speakers to public events.

A.J. Daverede describes recently available U.S. Air Force “Classified Research and Development Case Files” in his Newly Declassified Records column. SHFG’s proposal for an Executive Order on the establishment of federal history offices during the administration of President Bill Clinton is the subject of Chas Downs’ From the Archives column. Please see reminders about the SHFG 2019 Annual Meeting, Hewlett Lecture, and member input survey. Also see a call for papers for the NASA in the South Symposium, the many new book titles in Recent Publications, and news announcements in Making History in this issue of The Federalist.

Comments and suggestions are welcome at shfgfederalist@gmail.com or on Twitter @faithtomfaith.

Department of the Interior Museum Collections Spotlight

Official Portrait of Secretary Stewart Lee Udall
Allan Houser (1914-1994), 1975-1977
Oil on canvas
U.S. Department of the Interior Museum, INTR 01641

Stewart Lee Udall (1920-2010) was a World War II veteran, Mormon missionary and lawyer who became an influential three-term congressman from Arizona. He was sworn in as Secretary of the Interior in 1961 and served under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. Udall’s tenure was influential in the passage of conservation legislation, including the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the National Trails System Act—both of which mark their 50th anniversaries this year. Udall advocated for the empowerment of American Indians and Alaska Natives. He also dramatically increased the National Park and National Wildlife Refuge systems, particularly in the eastern United States. In recognition of Udall’s lifelong commitment to civil rights, public service and environmental issues, the Department of the Interior’s headquarters building was renamed the Stewart Lee Udall Interior Building in 2010.

In 1975 Udall selected internationally-renowned Apache artist Allan Houser to paint this official secretarial portrait—the first by a Native American. More than 35 years earlier, Houser had been commissioned to create murals for the Interior’s Indian Craft Shop and South Penthouse.

To catch up with the latest programs and happenings at the Interior Museum, subscribe to their newsletter at https://www.doi.gov/interiormuseum.

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Through forming a digital cooperative we hope that free access to these rare sources might sponsor more awareness and a deeper perspective into the complex histories of Tribal communities. We founded this project to empower scholars, students, and the public with free access to Tribal archival materials. Through this archival initiative, we hope that increased access might also collectively promote a more informed Native and non-Native citizenry on issues relevant to Indigenous communities.

This is a significant moment for promoting a digital cooperative in Indian Country, especially considering previous colonial attempts to “silence” Native voices from most archives. In 1995, the anthropologist Michel-Rolph Trouillot identified the archive as a principle site where the voice of colonized and subjected peoples have been silenced (Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1995)). Over the last forty years, scholars have made enormous advances in documenting and interpreting Native history, however, access to this scholarship often remains within highly priced subscription databases or collections that are largely hidden from the public or Tribal communities. Given more recent protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and the growing opposition against the exploitation of Bear Ears National Monument, it is evident that a major disconnect exists in the national media coverage and federal/state policies that disregard Native perspectives on sovereignty, treaty rights, resources, and human rights. AIDHP seeks to challenge such divides by offering a digital platform that can encourage responsible reporting and legislation/policies that honor Native voices and communities throughout Indian Country. These are also communities that deserve free and open source access to their own key primary-source documents.

Late last year, we launched AIDHP with an entire run of Akwesasne Notes that was originally published between 1969 and 1987. This publication represents one of the most significant Native media sources from the Red Power era. We also secured the proper rights and permissions to digitize the newspaper for the first time. Today, these newspapers are available free online and can be read in their original form and are also word searchable. The project has various in-progress historic records and materials intended to encourage further historical research in Native American Studies. In collaboration with the Dr. C. C. & Mabel L. Criss Library at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, a variety of materials, including over sixty interviews and oral histories, local newspapers and newsletters, photographs, and other Tribal documents that local and regional Indigenous communities wish to make public are in the process of being digitized and readied for the archive.

The American Indian Digital History Project also seeks to bring scholarly attention to significant Tribal primary sources that have been previously unavailable online. The collections of oral histories currently being digitized by UNO Libraries have likewise been under-utilized, and opening these rare collections to a wider audience of students and scholars alike will sponsor more responsible research that can benefit our larger community, region, and nation. Our future digitization projects and growth of the cooperative will also increase access to documents never-before digitized, including local newsletters, newsletters produced during the occupation of Alcatraz Island from 1969-1971, and several other materials as AIDHP supports a progressive digital platform that will become an invaluable resource for Native historians, scholars, and people around the world.

Kent Blansett, PhD, is Project Director and Jason Heppler, PhD, is Research Director of the American Indian Digital History Project, University of Nebraska at Omaha.
There are plenty of recent examples of “best book” lists in history without any women authors, keynote sessions without any women speakers, and syllabi with few or no women’s works listed. History is far from the only discipline challenged to be more inclusive and diverse; Women Also Know History is an initiative directly inspired by Women Also Know Stuff, a project of women in Political Science. The premise is straightforward. With this resource, a searchable website (womenalsoknowhistory.com) makes it easy to locate women historians expert in the widest possible range of historical subjects. Women Also Know History is for women historians but also for journalists, fellow historians seeking speakers or reviewers, readers seeking to expand their library, and more.

The Women Also Know History initiative launched with a panel at the June 2017 Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, and its first social media campaign #ILookLikeAHistorian. From just some of the incredible images that were shared, of diverse women working as historians in a wide range of professional settings, we compiled the composite that is now the banner on the website and elsewhere. In June of 2018 we opened the website and invited all women who work as historians to create profiles on the site. Clearly there is enthusiasm for the project. Within 24 hours, over 500 women historians had created profiles. Within three days there were nearly 1200, and now there are nearly 3000 women historians listed, from all over the world but concentrated in the United States. Women Also Know History has over 9,000 Twitter followers (@womnknowhistory) and a robust Facebook presence.

We invite all women historians to create a profile with just two easy steps: register, and then receive an email allowing you to build your profile. Only the individual named may create their own profile. Profile fields include education, professional positions, fields of expertise, publications, social media, and contact information. As we continue to develop the site we will include resource pages on such topics as how to manage social media.

We also invite all users to explore the site, through the search function, to locate scholars for speaking engagements, media appearances, and more, and to follow the initiative through social media. We also welcome suggestions for expanding and enhancing the initiative.

Karin Wulf is Executive Director of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture and Professor of History at William & Mary. She co-founded Women Also Know History with Keisha N. Blain and Emily A. Prifogle. She can be reached at kawulf@wm.edu or on Twitter @kawulf.
The Union as It Was, The Constitution as It Is: The Civil War Governors of Kentucky as Institutional History

By Patrick A. Lewis

The Kentucky Historical Society’s Civil War Governors of Kentucky Digital Documentary Edition (CWGK), http://discovery.civilwargovernors.org, collects, digitizes, edits, and annotates the documents associated with Kentucky’s three governors and two provisional Confederate governors from the presidential election in November 1860 through the end of chattel slavery in the state in December 1865. But while the project’s title is personal, its scope is institutional. CWGK chooses to focus on the office of the governor as an archival collecting point for the lost lives and stories of everyday Kentuckians—women and men, enslaved and free—whose archival footprint—particularly in their own words or written in their own, often semiliterate, hand—is next to nonexistent.

This is not to say that there aren’t political riddles surrounding the five principals to be teased out. Stances such as sphinxlike Beriah Magoffin’s staunch defense of official neutrality despite his personal secessionism and Thomas E. Bramlette simultaneously clashing with the Lincoln administration and the rebels within his own borders over questions around the Union and slavery are certainly elucidated through a closer read of their correspondence. The greater value is in understanding how mid-nineteenth century people interacted with the public institutions which shaped and governed their lives. What expectations did people have of local, state, and federal governments? Who were the faces of governance in their communities? How did they conceive of justice and equity? How did they understand the interaction of branches and levels of government, and how did they play governing institutions off of one another to secure the outcomes they desired?

Historians who have used CWGK to date have, by and large, found interesting cases and compelling individual stories. Articles about Louisville madams, the illicit liquor trade across the color line, opioid abuse among veterans, and spatiotemporal mapping of the guerrilla war are all forthcoming in peer-reviewed publications. What has interested me, though, is the systemic view of, first, a diverse society making claims on its government and, second, observing an overwhelmed system of governance and administration flounder amidst successive waves of political, military, and humanitarian crises that eventually crescendo into social revolution. Loyal Kentuckians broke with their fellow slaveholders and stood up two-to-one to defend the Union, the Constitution, and the enforcement of the laws. We need to seriously interrogate how they understood those ideas by understanding how government manifested itself in commonplace ways as people conducted business and pursued justice.

Part of my interest in the nature of nineteenth century government comes from the early history of the CWGK project. We needed to chart the structure of state government so that we could reconstruct it archivally. That is, to find the materials we needed to create this document corpus, we needed to understand where paper that crossed a governor’s desk came from and where it went after his signature. So we started with the state constitution, revamped ten years before the war, and scanned the legislative journals for additions and amendments. We scoured lists of officeholders to place names with tenures of office. And then, when we understood how government worked in theory, we dove into the archival collections to watch how it worked in reality. These were different things.

We discovered power brokers operating from every county in the state (and changing with the winds of each new administration), favors that politicians had promised on the campaign trail being cashed in, court cases that inexplicably switched jurisdictions, and that was all before the conflict really heated up. We saw counties fail, institutions collapse, observed a brain drain in local leadership as the available men were disqualified from office because of their politics or because they enlisted in one of the contending armies. We saw the influence of personal patronage politics, of kin and good-old-boy networks wither under new scrutiny over loyalty and treason. We saw the rise of the federal administrative state in the form of the IRS assessor, the federal marshal, and the
nascent Freedmen’s Bureau step on the toes of state officials—and in the process give previously powerless groups new avenues to access power and seek vengeance.

This research did not exist in a vacuum. I was studying state institutions historically, but as I did so, I was also administering a program from within a state historical agency. I was an intersection point between entities both in and outside of government, principally the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage cabinet, the Kentucky Historical Society Foundation, and the federal agencies that monitor and sponsor our work (principally NEH and NHPRC). I learned, just as my nineteenth century counterparts did, how to work within established hierarchies and when to kick a request to a strategic partner outside of the normal channels. I found myself fully devoted to the cause (of educating and engaging the public through the past to draw connections to the present and to inspire a better future for Kentucky) in which my project and my agency were collectively involved, while also fighting tooth and nail with peers for a shrinking pool of resources in lean budget years. I was learning the soft skills of management, leadership, and administration for which my graduate training had in no way prepared me.

I thought that I wasn’t “getting to be a historian anymore” when I negotiated contracts, got frustrated when other departments crossed invisible boundaries into my sphere of influence, and struggled to balance the competing claims of my superiors, our funders, and the needs of our academic and public audiences. But all of a sudden, I would return to my texts and chuckle when a judge or a cabinet officer carried off a particularly shrewd end-around a seemingly insurmountable bureaucratic hurdle. Those old guys could politick with the best of ‘em.

But aside from putting a few good moves into my own leadership playbook, I have developed a profound empathy for both the plaintive citizens bringing horrifying tales of death, crime, sexual violence, destitution, and starvation as well as for the representatives of government at all levels who are chronically unable to muster sufficient resources to address the systemic problems they saw. It is easy to see the Civil War as a crisis of elected government—at a legislative, gubernatorial, Congressional, and especially Presidential level—but I have come to appreciate the war as it drug down an underprepared and underpowered civil service under the weight of modern, total war. The antebellum systems buckled underneath the crisis. That book is far more complicated to write than a conventional political history and far less marketable than a new battle history. That book about the slow collapse of governmental systems under unforeseen external stress might also be far more relevant to a moment when the national coffers have been drained by years of military conflict and faith in the capacity of electoral politics to address the day-to-day issues facing the citizenry is critically low.

To date, CWGK has published 10,000 documents online. We have annotated and socially networked approximately 1,000 of those documents—linking together over 8,000 people and organizations into a searchable database. The project is moving forward into a new phase of document identification, searching through NARA holdings for interactions between state and federal government. Besides the obvious questions about military policy, we hope to uncover new insights into the construction of the land grant college system and the balancing act between state and federal judicial and revenue collecting systems. These are not flashy historiographical topics, but working on the history of a government from within an agency of that same government, I believe they are critical questions to pose if we are to understand how Americans experienced being Americans through interaction with their government.

Patrick A. Lewis is Project Director of the Civil War Governors of Kentucky Digital Documentary Edition, Kentucky Historical Society.

**Staff Writers Needed**

The *Federalist* seeks writers to highlight agency news and write short feature articles. Specific areas of coverage include the National Park Service, U.S. Army, Smithsonian Institution, and Library of Congress, among others. Direct questions and responses to the editor at shfgfederalist@gmail.com
Tracy Baetz joined the staff of the U.S. Department of the Interior Museum in 2013 as Chief Curator. In this role she has curated several gallery and online exhibitions, the most recent of which opened at the Department of the Interior last summer. Baetz earned a Master’s degree in American Studies from Florida State University and Bachelor’s degrees in History and in Government from the College of William and Mary. Her museum career has spanned 25 years at a variety of institutions—including a decade with national outreach initiatives at the Smithsonian Institution and seven years as the executive director of the accredited Brick Store Museum in Maine.

Interview by Thomas Faith

How did the Department of the Interior’s museum originate?

Under 32nd Interior Secretary Harold Ickes, construction began in 1935 on the Department of the Interior’s third and current headquarters. As Federal Public Works Project No. 4, it’s the first federal building to be authorized and built in the nation’s capital during President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s administration. Ickes specifically secured $100,000 in PWA funding to include a museum that would occupy an entire wing. While it was a novel concept for a Cabinet-level federal agency, the museum was just one of many tools Ickes employed to better explain and more broadly share the missions of the Department. The museum’s original displays were planned and fabricated over a three-year period by the National Park Service’s Eastern Museum Laboratory (no longer in existence). The Interior Museum opened to the public on March 8, 1938, so we’re celebrating our 80th anniversary this year.

Why did you decide to become the chief curator of the Interior Museum?

The job posting came at a time when the Interior Museum was going through a major transition. Much of my career has been with projects or institutions doing something unprecedented and requiring a lot of flexibility and innovation. I’d had 20 years of museum experience at local, state and national museums but was never federal, so that was intriguing, too. The Department of the Interior dates to 1849, and its history is intertwined with that of the nation—all of which offers a lot of potential from a museum standpoint. I hoped they’d think I’d be a good fit.

What was the first order of business for you as chief curator in 2013?

Reopening the gallery. Wing-by-wing facilities modernization projects in our headquarters necessitated what was slated to be a temporary closure of our public exhibition space in 2009. When I came on board in spring 2013, however, the construction crews were only just getting ready to turn back over to the museum approximately 600 s.f. of its original 8,000 s.f. This significantly-reduced footprint provided our four-person museum staff the unique yet unanticipated opportunity to completely reimagine the space. The immediate focus was on developing exhibitions, the first of which debuted in April 2014.

What are some strengths of the museum’s collection related to the history of the Department of the Interior?

The Interior Museum’s collection contains over 8,000 objects. That’s just a fraction of the more than 205 million museum objects cared for by nine other Department of the Interior bureaus and offices nationwide. The Interior Museum’s historical artifacts consist of “tools of the trade” for scientific discovery, stewardship, and protection—from land management to law enforcement. Others chronicle policy priorities and major initiatives or commemorate milestones. Many more are items gifted to secretaries of the Interior, conveying both the honor and complexities of the position. We also have more than 1,200 works of art, including two Thomas Moran masterpieces of the American West and the official portraits of all 51 past secretaries. Approximately 2,100 objects—most of which date from the late 1800s to mid 1900s—reflect the culture, history, and geographic diversity of American Indian tribes and Alaska Native Villages, as well as represent the Department’s federal oversight of U.S. territories and insular areas.

How do you tell the story of the past, present, and future of the Department of the Interior in 600 square feet, as you did in your recent exhibit People, Land & Water?

We spent a lot of time with our stakeholders to develop a contemporary overview of the Department with this exhibition. A key takeaway from that process was to emphasize Interior’s scope and influence. People, land, and water were common refrains reinforced throughout the exhibit against a backdrop of “West to East and Sea to Sky.” The small space meant that words and artifacts were at a premium and therefore had to be selected for the greatest impact. Rather than silo out each of Interior’s bureaus, we concentrated on their synergies. A timeline and broad interpretive themes of discovering, protecting, contemporary cultures, and powering our future ultimately provided the framework for illustrating that interconnectivity, as well as the projects in which our employees are engaged nationally and internationally.

You have said with People, Land & Water that you tried to accommodate “striders, strollers, and studiers.” How did you accomplish that?

I can’t take credit for that terminology, but it’s an information hierarchy and layered approach to exhibition design that
acknowledges and addresses a wide range of visitor types and learning styles. For those who streak through, we rely on section titles, large-format graphics and silent video loops to impart the primary themes. Folks with more time and interest will explore the exhibit in greater depth, gravitate to the objects, and perhaps watch the 14-minute film. The studiers will take in everything, plus engage with every tactile interactive and read each label down to the photo captions.

What role does public programming play in the mission of the museum?

The museum’s mission is to “inspire and educate Departmental employees and the general public about the ongoing stewardship of the nation’s public lands, natural resources and cultural heritage.” To that end, public programming is central to our mission. It’s also what kept the museum visible while the physical gallery space was closed for renovations.

The Interior Museum is a frequent collaborator both internally and externally. We host a monthly public lecture series focused on the diverse workings of the Department. In addition, we’re an active participant in the Neighbors to the President Consortium and are a regular venue for the DC Environmental Film Festival.

What plans does the museum have for the future?

We just received word that we can start planning buildout of 2,000 s.f. of our former space, so that’s very exciting. It will allow us to amplify our existing, semi-permanent orientation gallery with changing exhibitions speaking to a greater variety of themes.

How do you make use of the hallway murals and other historical aspects of the Department of the Interior’s historic building?

With more than 40 murals and sculptures, our headquarters is home to the most New Deal era artwork of any federal building. Approximately 1,800 visitors annually come on the public tours we offer twice weekly and by appointment for larger groups. The building’s historic art and architectural details make for a fascinating lens through which to view the Department—past and present.

What is your favorite aspect of your duties at the Department of the Interior’s museum?

There’s so much to learn about Interior. I’ve enjoyed researching our collection and identifying its gaps to inform future collecting. I particularly like the storytelling aspect of my job: finding ways—through programming, social media, virtual and actual exhibitions—for our collections to demystify the Department and demonstrate its relevance. I value the camaraderie and expertise of our Interior Museum staff and appreciate working on larger policy issues with my national curator counterparts throughout the Department. It’s been rewarding making people more aware of our resources.

Newly Declassified Records

This issue’s featured declassified series is a sizeable U.S. Air Force series entitled “Classified Research and Development Case Files.” Totaling 100 Federal Record Center boxes, this Record Group 342 entry UD–16D 8 series contains records that date from the late 1940s to the early 1970s from a number of Air Force commands that originated with Air Research and Development Command (ARDC), created shortly after the founding of the U.S. Air Force in 1947. Over the span of the records in this series, the research and development aspect of ARDC was subsumed into the Air Force Systems Command (AFSC). The records in this series are delineated by the research contract number; unfortunately, the records are not arranged, so earlier dates will be found in higher-numbered boxes. The record types represented in the series run the gamut of what can be found in R&D files: reports, blueprints, photographs, charts, project folders and management files, and computer outputs. The subjects of these R&D efforts vary like the records types—jet, rocket, and ramjet engines, advanced avionics, lasers, radio antennae, and so on. There are several boxes of records devoted solely to the abortive XJ99 lift engine that was slated to equip a joint U.S.–UK vertical take-off (VTOL) fighter. Another box is devoted to the Laser Target Recognition System (LTRS), an early, if not the first, LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) system which has found use today in a wide range of fields such as archeology, geology, biology, mining, surveying, space-flight, as well as for the military services. Like most previous series described in this column, documents have been withdrawn from these records. For the withdrawn documents, standard National Declassification Center withdrawal item notices have been inserted, each bearing enough information for the researcher to make a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or Mandatory Declassification Review (MDR) request. To discover more record series declassified by the NDC, please visit the NDC Blog at http://blogs.archives.gov/ndc/ for complete lists of declassified record series made available as soon as declassification processing is complete. Visitors to the blog also have an opportunity to set processing priorities on a number of record series awaiting indexing.

—A. J. Daverede, NARA, NDC
From the Archives

The SHFG’s Draft Executive Order on Federal Historical Offices

By Chas Downs

One almost forgotten initiative that the SHFG undertook as the 20th anniversary of its existence approached was an attempt to induce the Clinton White House to approve an Executive Order that would require the establishment of History Offices in all Federal Executive Branch agencies.

While increasing the number of Federal Agencies with history offices was a long-standing Society goal, progress in this area had been at best mixed, and gains were often matched by losses. Creation of new history offices was haphazard, and those that existed varied greatly in their operations and quality. However, some encouraging developments were emerging. The SHFG’s Directory of Federal History Programs had succeeded in raising the public profile of Federal history offices. In November 1998, the Executive Council approved Dick Myers’ proposal called “A Century Before Us,” which included a 5-year program to encourage the creation of historical programs in those Federal agencies lacking them.

The signing of Executive Order 13072 by President Clinton, February 2, 1998, provided a unique chance to promote the expansion of historical awareness in and about the Federal government. The EO created the White House Millennium Council “to recognize national and local projects that commemorate the new millennium.” It recognized that the Federal Government had “a special responsibility to inspire the American people to reflect upon and commemorate the achievements of this country’s past and celebrate the possibilities of the future.” The Council’s mission was to mark three major 200th anniversary milestones: the occupancy of the White House by the President, the establishment of the Federal capital city, Washington, DC, and the first meeting of Congress in the Capitol. It also encouraged Federal agencies to plan activities and programs to commemorate and celebrate the new millennium, and to make recommendations regarding the Save America’s Treasures in the Historic Preservation Fund to protect “America’s threatened cultural treasures…that document and illuminate the history and culture of United States.”

While lacking in substantive requirements, EO 13072 did establish goals that seemed to call for professional historical expertise in order to be achieved. The SHFG quickly saw this as an unprecedented opportunity to call for expansion of the role of existing Executive Branch History offices, and for their creation in agencies without them.

To encourage this process, the SHFG’s President, Victoria Hardin, drafted an Executive Order which would have required that every executive office agency establish a historical office to facilitate the commemoration of the Millennium, and to take the lead in preserving and interpreting the nation’s history and accomplishments for future generations. The first part of the draft echoed the goals of the Millennium Council program. The second part laid down specific requirements for all executive branch historical offices, including professional staffing, its mission of documenting and preserving agency history, and the provision of special resources for documenting the Millennium.

Administratively, history offices were to be located near the agency’s senior policy makers. The SHFG noted that “an Executive Order establishing history offices through Federal departments and agencies is a critical first step in guarding our nation’s heritage.”

Many prominent organizations supported this initiative, including the AHA, the OHA, the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History, and the National Council on Public History. Page Putnam Miller, former head of the NCC, and Arnita Jones, formerly Executive Director of the OAH and current executive director of the AHA, arranged a meeting with Ellen McCulloch-Lowell, head of The White House Millennium Office and Deputy Assistant to the President, to discuss the proposed Executive Order and other key historical programs. The SHFG even went so far as to have McCulloch-Lowell give the keynote...
speech for the Society’s 1999 Annual Meeting. To further garner support for the cause, SHFG President Hardin wrote an article, published in the AHA’s *Perspectives on History* (May 1, 1999) titled “What Do Federal Historians Do?” Hardin vividly described the varied and challenging roles taken on by historians in the Federal government, and how their activities benefited their agencies, other historians, and the general public.

Inevitably, there was opposition. For example, Archivist of the United States John Carlin opposed the draft EO on budgetary grounds, and SHFG members were unsuccessful in persuading him to at least take a neutral position on it. Supporters continued to pursue the initiative, revising the draft in June, 1999. Hardin also wrote a follow-up letter to McCulloch-Lovell, dated July 1, 1999, emphasizing the importance of the draft EO in furthering the administration’s Millennium Office program. Hardin closed by alluding to actions taken by President Franklin D. Roosevelt which led to the creation of the National Archives, the Presidential Library system, and other Federal historical programs. She concluded by hoping that “President Clinton’s vision in creating the Millennium Office will be extended into the future through the creation of historical offices that will foster records preservation and ensure dissemination of historical materials about the activities of government….”

Mike McReynolds, who succeeded Hardin as SHFG president, kept Society members informed about the status of the draft Executive Order. He wrote in *The Federalist* (Volume 20, Number 2, Summer 1999):

The proposal is in the White House, and Society members and others continue to talk with Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, Director of the White House Millennium Council, to push the order closer to the President’s desk. Unhappily, our oft repeated and convincing rationales for historical offices in the federal agencies are rarely sufficient, and politics, budgets, and chance play major roles in their establishment. The Society needs to continue its undaunting efforts and not be discouraged by the inevitable setbacks.

In his next *Federalist* column (Volume 20, Number 3, Fall 1999), McReynolds noted that the Executive Council had continued to monitor the progress of the EO through the bureaucracy, and the White House was aware of support for the draft EO, having received numerous favorable letters from historical organizations. McReynolds hoped “that the desire to establish the historical legacy” of the Clinton administration would “encourage the White House to issue the Order.” McReynolds also noted somberly that “Watching the changing levels of historical interest by different administrations can be a telling and sometimes frustrating exercise for historians.” Sadly, his observations also served as the eulogy for SHFG’s draft EO, for there were no further updates on it in *The Federalist*. It had been overtaken by events. “The Society was at a real crossroads,” SHFG President James B. Gardner asserted in *The Federalist* (Volume 22, Number 1, Spring 2001). It had to “reassess its activities and needs” to cope with declining membership and vacancies in key positions. And of course, the Clinton administration was dealing with problems and distractions of its own.

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.

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**SHFG’s Annual Richard G. Hewlett Lecture**

Delivered by Liza Mundy, author of *Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II*.

Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 6:00 PM

Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C.

Free to SHFG Members!

Register at [http://www.shfg.org/event-2880071](http://www.shfg.org/event-2880071)
Heritage Inspires Career in Federal Service

By Bethany Henry Rosenbaum

My Cherokee and Choctaw heritage has led to a passion for preserving native culture, with a particular interest in native identity, public policy, Indian law, and engaging diverse communities. I hope to serve to improve government-to-government consultation in a federal capacity working for the National Park Service or other federal agency as a Tribal Liaison or Cultural Historian. While the AHA reported troublesome statistics on job opportunities for History PhDs and the NPS reported less than 2% of its employees are American Indian, I am hopeful for an opportunity to continue serving Indian Country and federal agencies.

After recruitment as a Pathways Career Intern in 2010 by the Midwest Region Student Academy—a program to encourage diversity in the National Park Service—I have completed a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology, a M.A. in History, and will complete a PhD in History in Spring 2019. Serving as Park Ranger at Fort Scott NHS, Pea Ridge NMP, and currently at Arkansas Post NM has provided a number of opportunities in training, and served to expand my horizons in cultural resource management, public policy, Indian law, and government-to-government relations including participating as a Trail Apprentice to the National Trails System Conference, a Native Youth Apprentice at the Society of American Indian Government Employees, and President of the Arkansas Trail of Tears Association.

As a SREB Doctoral Fellow at the University of Arkansas, my dissertation builds on studies that indicated the need for a more comprehensive interpretation of the American Indian story at our national parks. This project, entitled Promise and Practice: Toward an Expansive, Integrated, Collaborative Narrative on American Indians in our National Parks, identifies existing programs that best exemplify successful and effective tribal consultation, identifies working elements and activities that inspire fuller understanding of the Trail of Tears for the public, and analyzes the guiding principles and practices responsible for the program’s successes for other park units to consider adopting. Endorsed by the Cherokee Nation, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and United Keetoowah Band of Indians, I aim to add to existing knowledge about meaningful consultation to benefit the federal-tribal relationship by recommending best practices based on oral interviews with NPS and tribal liaisons.

While this project draws on a case study, the impacts and results of this study to public history and cultural resource management are far-reaching. With over forty-nine federal sites, seventy certified trail sites, and seventy-two state and local sites designated to protect the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, the evolution and progress of how the NPS collaborates with and interprets American Indian history has long term effects in protecting resources critical to native identity and heritage tourism. This study will benefit a growing repository of literature on Indian history at National Parks as well as aid in the relationship between Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and NPS representatives by shedding light on successes and unmet dialogues, and promoting a broader narrative on native history to the public-at-large.
Federal spending for the space program during the Cold War had a transformative effect on the southern United States. NASA funding for the Apollo program alone constituted an investment of $25 billion (in 1960s dollars) or nearly 4% of the federal budget at its peak in 1965. NASA’s decision to construct most of its major new facilities in the South – including those in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas – also represented a major investment worth more than $2.5 billion in the fiscal years 1962 and 1963 alone. Beyond the initial investment, the presence of those vast, federally funded technology development centers continues to exert a major influence on Southern society and politics. With so many of its development, manufacturing, and management centers situated in the South, southern politics and society have also profoundly impacted NASA’s organizational culture causing it to “speak with a southern accent.” As Loyd S. Swenson Jr. argued in his 1968 essay on the topic, the South deserved much of the credit for developing the technology for the Apollo program. However, there was also a hope that the "reaction engines for space" might compel the region to "leave behind reactionary thought."

The purpose of this symposium is to examine the economic, social, and political impact NASA has had on the South over the past 60 years and to explore how that southern ‘accent’ has affected the development of NASA’s organizational culture, technology development, and programmatic goals. The intention is to publish a selection of the papers as an anthology.

**Topics for consideration include, but are not limited to:**
- Gender/Labor/Race/Environmental Studies
- Aerospace Tourism – Museums
- LBJ, Carter as Southern presidents and NASA policy
- Impact on STEM education at regional academic institutions
- Impact on/of Southern politics
- “Southernness” of NASA Organizations
- Immigration to the South
- Impact of the Cold War and international cooperation
- Development of the new sun belt middle class
- Infrastructure for technology development
- Development of aerospace industry across the South
- Impact of work on various programs – Apollo, Shuttle, ISS, Hubble, etc.
- Impact of Congressional seniority system on funding/development
- Oral histories and archival collections

**Submission Procedures:**
If you wish to present a paper, please send an abstract of no more than 400 words and a short biography or curriculum vita, including affiliation by January 1, 2019 to Brian C. Odom at brian.c.odom@nasa.gov or Stephen P. Waring at warings@uah.edu

Individual Presentations or Roundtable Proposals Due on January 1, 2019

**For more information contact:**
Brian Odom
Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama
256-544-0034
brian.c.odom@nasa.gov

A celebrity for his heroics in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, Commodore Stephen Decatur built his home in 1818 within sight of the President’s House with prize money awarded to him by Congress for his military victories. He commissioned Benjamin Henry Latrobe, America’s first professional architect, to create a home “fit for fine entertaining” and the resulting three-story square townhouse constructed with red brick in the Federal fashion is known as Decatur House today. Stephen Decatur’s time in the fine house was cut short in 1820 when he was mortally wounded in a famous duel in nearby Bladensburg. After his death, his widow Susan Decatur rented the house to such prominent figures as Henry Clay, Martin Van Buren, and Edward Livingston, and ultimately sold it to John Gadsby. In 1872, General Edward Beale purchased the house and in 1956, Marie Beale, the last owner, bequeathed the house to the National Archives and Records Administration, introduces a study of the house and its occupants in four parts—a biography of Stephen Decatur and his naval accomplishments by James Tertius de Kay; an architectural history by Michael Fazio; a study of the fine and decorative arts collection by Osborne Mackie; and an essay by Katherine Malone-France. An essay by Jessie Kratz, historian at the National Archives and Records Administration, introduces a collection of documents that tell the story of enslaved persons who lived and worked in the house during the time after Decatur’s death and before Beale’s purchase. Available through the White House Historical Association at: https://shop.whitehousehistory.org/bookstore/books-and-journals/the-stephen-decatur-house-a-history.

Picatinny: The First Century, by Patrick J. Owens, details the researching, developing, and engineering of the United States Army weapons and munitions facility programs located in New Jersey that has prepared American troops for over a century to meet their challenges.

This fascinating monograph, filled with photographs, explores the history of the Picatinny Arsenal, first built in 1880 to house gunpowder. This gunpowder was sent to American military troops in the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and other major conflicts. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Arsenal influenced the development of artillery, tank rounds and other major weaponry. Picatinny was the main provider of ammunition for the U.S. military during WWII. The Arsenal continued to develop major weapons such as the bazooka rocket, the C-4 explosive, and the “Atomic Annie” artillery shell. Currently, there are more than 5,000 scientists, engineers and other staff at Picatinny Arsenal using advanced technology to create weapons, ammunition, and to design related products and storage components. Available through the Government Publishing Office at: https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/picatinny-first-century. Agency website: http://www.pica.army.mil/Picatinny/.

The Legacy of Belleau Wood: 100 Years of Making Marines and Winning Battles, An Anthology by Paul Westermeyer.

The Battle of Bois de Belleau, or Belleau Wood. This was a battle that exemplified the Marine Corps’ core values of honor, courage, and commitment. It was a battle that catapulted the
Marine Corps to worldwide prominence. And it was a battle that helped turn the tide of “The Great War” (as WWI was then known) in favor of the Allies.

The Battle of Belleau Wood was a landmark event in Marine Corps history. Prior to the battle, the United States Marine Corps was a little known, unproven commodity. After three weeks of displaying the courage, determination, and win-at-all-costs attitude that has become synonymous with the Marine Corps in the years since, that all changed, and the Marines have since been known as—arguably—the most formidable fighting force in the world. Available through the Government Publishing Office at: https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/legacy-belleau-wood-100-years-making-marines-and-winning-battles-antology.

The Commission of Fine Arts is pleased to announce the publication of its latest book, Palace of State: The Eisenhower Executive Office Building, edited by Thomas Luebke. To mark the book’s release, the public is invited to a panel discussion and book signing on 10 September 2018 at the National Building Museum. CFA Secretary Thomas Luebke, CFA historian Kay Fanning, and General Services Administration design manager Mina Wright will share insights about this building’s complex history.

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) has occupied a prominent place next to the White House for almost 150 years. Built to house three of the oldest and most important executive departments of the U.S. government—State, War, and Navy—the colossal granite building has long been a venue where American history is made. Having outlasted decades of plans threatening alteration or outright demolition, the building survives as one of the foremost examples of Second Empire design in the United States, and it now serves as the home of the Executive Office of the President.

This illustrated history details the building’s rich architectural and historical legacy—from the beginnings of federal civic architecture in Washington to the EEOB’s construction as the world’s largest office building during a time of political and social change following the Civil War—exploring how the building manifests the exuberant but short-lived Second Empire style in America. The book also documents how the building has evolved over more than a century, both in reputation and use, culminating in the recently completed restoration process that began in the nineteen-eighties.

Featuring beautifully rendered architectural plans, historic images, and lush contemporary photography, Palace of State makes a comprehensive study of this iconic nineteenth-century landmark that continues to serve in its role as a monumental setting for statecraft.


This volume is part of a Foreign Relations subseries that documents the most important foreign policy issues of the Richard Nixon administration. It provides material on the administration’s efforts to adapt the U.S.-Japan Alliance in response to both an evolving bilateral context, with the strengthening of Japan’s political and economic institutions, and a changing international environment, in which the United States was seeking to reduce its military involvement in Indochina, to improve relations with the Soviet Union and the People’s Republic of China, and to realign an international economic system that had been created to address the challenges and concerns of the era following the Second World War.


The Department of State released a second, revised edition of Foreign Relations of the United States, 1977–1980, Volume IX, Arab-Israeli Dispute, August 1978–December 1980. As part of the Foreign Relations subseries devoted to the foreign policy of the administration of President Jimmy Carter, this volume is the second of two volumes that document U.S. efforts to achieve a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

This revised edition incorporates critical material found since the publication of the first edition in 2014. This added material
consists largely of personal handwritten notes taken at the September 5–17, 1978, Camp David summit by Samuel W. Lewis, the U.S. Ambassador to Israel from 1978 until 1985. Department of State historians found these notes while researching volumes for the administration of President Ronald Reagan, amidst Department material dating largely from the 1980s. Discovered subsequent to the initial publication of *Foreign Relations*, 1977–1980, volume IX, Arab-Israeli Dispute, August 1978–December 1980, these documents add significantly to the record of U.S. diplomacy at Camp David. While they do not alter substantively the portrait of U.S. diplomacy at the summit already represented in the first edition of the volume, this material enhances the documentary record. Department of State historians also located a more complete version of a document already published in the first edition. Sometime shortly after the summit’s completion on September 17, 1978, U.S. officials produced a draft day-by-day summary of the meetings held over its duration. Readers familiar with the first edition will note that the version of this summary document published in that edition covers most, but not all, of the summit. As a result of these discoveries, the decision was taken to issue a revised edition.


The OSD Historical Office recently published *Forging A Total Force: The Evolution of the Guard and Reserve* by Col. Forrest L. Marion, USAFR (Ret.) and Col. Jon T. Hoffman, USMCR (Ret.). This book traces the evolution of law and policies governing the Guard and reserve from the militias of the Revolutionary War era to today’s high-tempo operational force.

Forrest L. Marion is a staff historian at the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. He served 30 years in the Air Force in both active and reserve components, and retired as a colonel in 2008. He served six years as deputy chief historian for the Office of the Secretary of Defense Historical Office, and is author, coauthor, or editor of eight books on topics ranging from Marine Corps history to the Army’s work on the Panama Canal.


During the last decade, the US Military Health System—while caring simultaneously for combatants fighting two wars and for millions of service members, dependents, and military retirees at home—completely transformed its approach to combat casualty care. From the point of injury on the battlefield to rehabilitation and reintegration of wounded warriors into their communities, military innovators rapidly devised, implemented, refined, and spread new techniques and technologies throughout the force. They were able to succeed because the Military Health System was willing to learn from its failures and build on its successes. Through a mix of observation and the systematic collection and analysis of data (most notably, creation of the Joint Trauma System), military medicine continually improved. Primarily written by the military providers responsible for innovations in each field, this 44-chapter book documents each of these advances and provides stories of individual service members who benefited from them. Available through the Government Publishing Office at: [https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/out-crucible-how-us-military-transformed-combat-casualty-care-iraq-and-afghanistan](https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/out-crucible-how-us-military-transformed-combat-casualty-care-iraq-and-afghanistan). Agency website: [http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/borden/](http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/borden/).
Army Center of Military History

The Center of Military History’s team of research and writing historians in the Histories Directorate is about to embark on our first new official history series in almost fifteen years. This series of more than twenty volumes will eventually comprise three subseries covering Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and the Institutional Army since 11 September 2001. It will take a team effort across the Army to gather the documentary record for these volumes, develop manuscripts, and declassify them for timely publication.


Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

DNA testing and other forms of examination have begun on the 55 boxes of service members’ remains returned to the United States in late July from North Korea. The remains, which North Korea has said are those of U.S. service members killed during the Korean War, must undergo a thorough process of identification before family members can be notified of their return and the remains can be interred. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has noted that the remains were packaged to a high standard by the North Koreans, but identification by its nine-person scientific team is nevertheless expected to take months or years.

Diplomacy Center

From July 23rd through August 31st, the United States Diplomacy Center will display a preview of the exhibit Faces of Diplomacy in the Pavilion at the 21st Street entrance of the Harry S. Truman building. Faces of Diplomacy features portraits and videos of diplomatic professionals working abroad and in Washington D.C. From Public Affairs Officers to Information Management Specialists, to Diplomatic Security Officers, their stories illustrate the wide range of skills and functions required in the conduct of American diplomacy.

Faces of Diplomacy was created in collaboration with students and faculty from The George Washington University’s Corcoran School of the Arts and Design and the Department of Defense’s Combat Camera crew. Faces of Diplomacy was made possible through a generous grant from the Annenberg Foundation to the Diplomacy Center Foundation, the Diplomacy Center’s private 501(c)(3) partner.

Holocaust Memorial Museum

Every firsthand record of the Holocaust has an important story to tell, of suffering and strength, persecution and perseverance. We know victims’ experiences have the potential to reveal a new aspect of Holocaust history or highlight its relevance to the world today. This is why one year ago we launched the Museum’s first-ever Kickstarter campaign, Save Their Stories: The Undiscovered Diaries of the Holocaust. In just one month, more than 5,600 backers helped us raise funds to catalog and publish online over 200 diaries written by Holocaust survivors and victims.

Thanks to the funds raised by our Kickstarter backers, we were able to hire an archivist, Morgan Voth, who is fully dedicated to the Kickstarter project. To everyone who made this project possible, you have our deepest appreciation. The Museum is in a race against time to rescue the evidence of the Holocaust to ensure the voices of survivors and victims live on for perpetuity. We couldn’t do this urgent work without you.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing on the Moon offers an opportunity to reflect on what we know about the Apollo era and its legacies, what we still need to learn, and how we may best record and interpret the significance of spaceflight in society today and into the future. The National Air and Space Museum Space History Department and NASA History Division invite colleagues whose research and writing extend our understanding of Apollo, the Apollo era, human spaceflight, future space, and related areas to join together in assessing the current state of the field, suggesting new lenses for analysis and interpretation, and considering new paths for future scholarship.

Where: Ripley Center, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. When: Friday, December 7, 2018, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For more information, email NASM-ApolloDialogues@si.edu.

NASA has also announced the hiring of a new Chief Archivist, after the position remained vacant for almost two years. Robyn Rodgers brings a variety of professional experiences to the position, including work as an archivist at the U.S. Army Women’s Museum and seven years’ experience at the National Archives and Records Administration. She most recently served as a supervisory archivist in the processing unit and in records management, focusing on Army and Department of Defense records, at NARA in College Park. The NASA History Division stated that Robyn Rodgers was selected as the best candidate for Chief Archivist from a “stunning group of applicants.”

National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) held its first forum to discuss management of digital records moving into the 21st century. As of December 31, 2022, the agency will no longer accept records in analog or text form. So NARA is proactively providing guidance now on how Federal agencies can best meet the new electronic...
records management (ERM) requirements of the future. Held in conjunction with the General Services Administration (GSA), the goal of the event, dubbed “Industry Day,” was to bring together Federal agencies in need of solutions to manage electronic records with the private vendors who can provide those solutions. It also offered vendors and agency representatives the opportunity to ask technical questions related to the type of help agencies will need. Approximately 140 people attended the event, representing 60 vendors and 35 Federal agencies, with about 200 more attending virtually. The forum—held at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC—was recorded and is available on NARA’s YouTube channel. NARA has been preparing for the transition to electronic recordkeeping and management for decades since it created the Electronic Records Archives (ERA). The ERA will hold the most important electronic records created by Federal agencies.

National Coalition for History

In July 2016, Congress passed legislation (Public Law 114-196) establishing the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission to begin planning for the nation’s 250th anniversary in 2026. Nearly a year later, Congress has finally completed the task of naming the private sector members of the panel: http://historycoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/US-Semiquincentennial-Commission-Members-1.pdf

The 33-member body is comprised of 8 Members of Congress, 16 private citizens, and 9 federal officials. Unfortunately, the law did not delineate the qualifications for the private citizen representatives who were named by the Speaker, House Minority Leader, and the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders.

The Commission’s charge is to, “plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the history of the United States leading up to the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.” The Commission is to develop a report with recommendations to the President and to Congress within two years of its formation.

National Declassification Center

In August 2015 we announced a new program called “Indexing on Demand” which allows researchers to request records that have completed quality assurance review and are available for indexing and final withhold processing. At https://declassification.blogs.archives.gov/2018/06/12/updated-lists-of-records-eligible-for-indexing-on-demand-iod/ are updated lists that include series eligible for request. The lists are divided into two groups: military records and civilian records. Each list is arranged by record group and includes: Holdings Management System (HMS) ID; HMS entry number; the record entry name for the series; dates of the records within the series (not always immediately available); and the size (possibly estimated) of the series itself.

Since the roll out, we have processed 472 requests totaling just over fifteen million pages with a release rate of 80%. We have updated our lists to remove the series that have been processed and add newly available series for request. As before, you can correspond with us via our ndc@nara.gov email box. You can also visit with our representative in the Archives II reference area, Jennifer Dryer, who would be happy to address your questions and requests. She can offer you an estimate on the complexity of the final processing needed as well as a tentative timeline to completion.

National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced $43.1 million in awards for 218 humanities projects across the country. The grants include the first awards made under NEH’s new Infrastructure and Capacity-Building Challenge Grant program, which will support infrastructure projects at 29 U.S. cultural institutions in 20 states and the District of Columbia.

This round of funding, NEH’s third and last for fiscal year 2018, will support vital research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. These peer-reviewed grants were awarded in addition to $47 million in annual operating support provided to the national network of state and local humanities councils during fiscal year 2018. Read the full list of grants by geographic location here: https://www.neh.gov/files/press-release/neh_grants_august_2018_final.pdf.

National Museum of the American Indian

The jury for the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, National Native American Veterans Memorial has unanimously selected the design concept submitted by Harvey Pratt (Cheyenne/Arapaho) titled, “Warriors’ Circle of Honor.” Groundbreaking for the memorial is slated for September 21, 2019. It is slated to open late 2020.

Pratt is a multimedia artist and recently retired forensic artist, as well as a Marine Corps Vietnam veteran. His design concept is a multisensory memorial. An elevated stainless steel circle rests on an intricately carved stone drum. You can listen to Pratt describe his design concept in detail at the museum’s YouTube channel. The selected design will undergo further development in partnership with the museum.

Congress commissioned the museum to build a National Native American Veterans Memorial that gives “all Americans the opportunity to learn of the proud and courageous tradition of service of Native Americans in the Armed Forces of the United States.” For more information about the memorial, visit AmericanIndian.si.edu/NNAVM.

National Museum of the Marine Corps

In commemoration of the centennial of World War I, the National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC) has opened a joint art exhibition depicting the story of the Marines and Sailors who fought and died in “the war to end all wars” and honors their memory a century later. The exhibition, in collaboration with the Naval Heritage and History Command, opened in June 2018 and contains 92 works by 42 artists drawn from the collections of the NMMC, the Naval History and Heritage Command and the National Museum of the United States Army.

The works, based on personal experiences or from historical perspectives, were created by service members, some of America’s leading illustrators, and even some unknown artists. The pieces document the everyday activities of Marines, the grisly battlefields of Belleau Wood and Blanc Mont Ridge, the combat debut of Marine Corps
aviation as well as the U.S. Navy’s battles against German U-boats and the stormy waters of the North Atlantic. Artwork from the home front includes posters intended to energize Americans to donate books, plant gardens, nurse the sick and wounded, and give their overall support to the war effort on a scale not seen before. Also included in the exhibition is a selection of portraits of Marine Medal of Honor recipients by noted artist Col. Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR (Ret.), paired with artwork that captures their heroic deeds. Finally, the exhibit showcases a small complementary selection of artifacts from the National Museum of the Marine Corps: objects brought back home by Marines that were transformed from mundane gear, such as helmets, mess kits, and artillery shells, into beautiful pieces of art. The exhibit will be open until April 2019.

National Security Archive

The National Security Archive’s Cyber Vault Project announces the launch of the CyberWar Map (https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/project/cyber-vault-project). An interactive resource, it is both a visualization of state-sponsored cyberattacks and an index of documents in the Archive’s Cyber Vault relevant to the subject. The complexity of cyber studies makes it increasingly challenging to conceptualize a “bird’s eye view” of the cyber-battlefield; therefore, the topic of state-to-state conflict lends itself especially well to a dynamic graphic representation. The CyberWar Map is a living research aid: documents and nodes will be added on a regular basis.

Papers of Andrew Jackson

The Papers of Andrew Jackson project at the University of Tennessee is pleased to announce that the latest volume, Volume X: 1832, published in 2016, has been added to the University of Virginia Press Rotunda digital edition at http://www.upress.virginia.edu/content/papers-andrew-jackson-digital-edition. This edition offers advanced features, including cross-searchability with the large Rotunda stable of other Early Republic editions and direct one-click links from transcriptions, synopses, and citations in the edition to images of original manuscripts in the Library of Congress Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, and James K. Polk collections.

The project is also pleased to announce that, courtesy of University of Tennessee Press and the University Libraries, the entire edition of ten volumes to date is now openly available as individually searchable and downloadable pdfs on Newfound Press, the Libraries’ digital imprint, at http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_jackson/. The Papers of Andrew Jackson is supported by the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Tennessee, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Tennessee Historical Commission. The next volume, Volume XI: 1833, is due for publication in 2019.

Papers of Martin Van Buren

The Papers of Martin Van Buren project at Cumberland University recently published its first series of 634 documents. These documents, which encompass the period of 1 January 1825–3 March 1829, witnessed the conclusion of Van Buren’s career in the U.S. Senate, his brief gubernatorial tenure in New York, and his appointment as Andrew Jackson’s secretary of state. Other topics of interest include New York politics, southern politics, and the formation of the Jacksonian Democratic party.

“Since the project officially began in February 2016, the publication of this first series of documents has been a major goal,” said Mark Cheathem, PMVB project director and history professor at Cumberland University. “This accomplishment represents thousands of hours of work by staff, volunteers, and, most importantly, Cumberland University students.”

The digital version of the Van Buren papers will make about 13,000 documents that belonged to the eighth president accessible. The documents can be found at vanburenpapers.org.

The Papers of Martin Van Buren project is sponsored by Cumberland University and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and is produced in partnership with the Center for Digital Editing at the University of Virginia.

White House Historical Association

The White House Historical Association is pleased announce its new free mobile application which offers, for the first time ever, virtual educational tours of the White House and surrounding President’s Neighborhood. Available for both iOS and Android, the app features three separate tour experiences for in-person visitors and those who want to learn about the White House from afar. The app also includes a Presidential Look-Alike feature that allows users to take a selfie to find out which president or first lady they most resemble based on portraits of presidents and first ladies in the White House collection. The White House Experience mobile app is a 21st century guidebook, bringing information about the rooms, historical furnishings, and decorative arts in the White House and points of interest in the surrounding President’s Neighborhood to your fingertips. Learn more and download the app today for free from the iTunes Store and Google Play!

World War I Centennial Commission

The effort to build a new National World War I Memorial in Washington DC gained a major endorsement from the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) on July 19, which voted unanimously to approve the updated design-concept for the Memorial after a status-update presentation by the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission’s memorial project team.

This presentation was a scheduled part of regulatory reviews of the memorial’s design concept by oversight agencies, which include the CFA, the U.S. National Park Service (NPS), and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC). The main presenters were project landscape architect David Rubin, along with Centennial Commission Chair Terry Hamby and Commissioner Dr. Libby O’Connell.

Since Congress designated DC’s Pershing Park as the site of the new National World War I Memorial in 2014, the Centennial Commission has been collaborating with Federal regulatory agencies to design an integrated park and memorial, honoring the more than four million American men and women who served in World War I. Read more about the CFA hearing, the design approval, and what is next for America’s National World War I Memorial at https://www.worldwar1centennial.org.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 11–14, 2018</td>
<td><strong>Society for the History of Technology.</strong> Annual Meeting. St. Louis, MI.</td>
<td>Visit <a href="https://www.historyoftechnology.org/annual-meeting">https://www.historyoftechnology.org/annual-meeting</a></td>
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<td>Nov. 7–11, 2018</td>
<td><strong>Association of National Park Rangers.</strong> 41st Ranger Rendezvous. Bowling Green, KY.</td>
<td>Visit <a href="http://www.anpr.org/RangerRendezvous41">http://www.anpr.org/RangerRendezvous41</a></td>
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<td>Jan. 3–6, 2019</td>
<td><strong>American Historical Association.</strong> 133rd Annual Meeting. “Loyalties.” Chicago, IL.</td>
<td>Visit <a href="https://www.historians.org/annual-meeting">https://www.historians.org/annual-meeting</a></td>
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<td>Apr. 10–14, 2019</td>
<td><strong>American Society for Environmental History.</strong> Annual Conference. Columbus, OH.</td>
<td>Visit <a href="https://m.aseh.net/conference-workshops/columbus-ohio">https://m.aseh.net/conference-workshops/columbus-ohio</a></td>
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<td>Apr. 25–26, 2019</td>
<td><strong>Society for History in the Federal Government.</strong> Annual Meeting. Washington, DC</td>
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<td>June 20–22, 2019</td>
<td><strong>The Association for Documentary Editing.</strong> Annual Meeting. Princeton, NJ</td>
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<td>July 18–21, 2019</td>
<td><strong>Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR).</strong> 41st Annual Meeting. Cambridge, MA.</td>
<td>Visit <a href="http://www.shear.org/annual-meeting/">http://www.shear.org/annual-meeting/</a></td>
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<td>July 29–Aug. 3, 2019</td>
<td><strong>Society of American Archivists (SAA).</strong> Joint Annual Meeting. Austin, TX</td>
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