

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

Second Series | Number 61 Spring 2019

SHFG www.shfg.org

INTERNSHIPS IN FEDERAL HISTORY

The Federalist Seeks Early-Career Professionals!

The Federalist needs graduate students and early-career professionals to participate in a feature on internships and early-stage career opportunities in the federal government: "Internships in Federal History."

If you are a current or recent federal history student who served in an internship, fellowship, pathways, or similar appointment, and you'd like a short description of yourself and your work featured in an upcoming issue of *The* Federalist, please email the editor at shfgfederalist@gmail. com. If you currently work with interns or other early-career individuals, please tell them about this opportunity to raise awareness about themselves and the work they do across the federal history community!



The U.S. Military Academy's Center for Oral History

By David G. Williams

The United States Military Academy's (USMA) L Department of History opened its Center for Oral History (COH) in 2005 as part of West Point's Margins of Excellence program, which provides grants to fund research centers and programs to enhance cadet academic and military achievements and keep West Point competitive with other top tier educational institutions. The West Point COH contributes to the Margins of Excellence program's vision by curating a broad-based archive of interviews to support scholarly research and writing. The COH's mission "is to record, preserve, and present the stories of soldiers, statesmen, and others who have influenced the profession of arms, in order to inspire, educate, and develop cadets, enhance the public's understanding of the experience of the Soldier, and create new primary source material for scholars" (westpointcoh.org). This mission statement provides the framework for the COH's staff, faculty, and volunteers who curate a growing archive of over 300 interviews that offers primary source documents on a wide range of topics.

The COH's archives naturally include many West Pont graduates, giving life to the Department of History's famous slogan—"much of the history we teach was made by those we taught"—however, an important distinction of the COH is that it does not limit interviews to West Point graduates only. Available oral histories include those of enlisted



Christmas Linzy, USMA 2015, discusses her road to West Point and her experiences at the Academy in one of the hundreds of oral history interviews available online at the Center for Oral History's website.

soldiers, officers of all military branches and specialties, international officials, and military spouses among others. The depth and breadth of the archive's source materials make it a very valuable resource for scholars in the fields of war and society, leadership, and operational military history. Many West Point graduates go on to shape and influence the country in other branches of the government also, making the COH's holdings of interest to researchers and historians of the Federal Government as well.

See "Center for Oral History" cont'd on page 11

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The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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Current and back issues are available to members at http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Federalist. Content listings for all issues are posted at http://shfg.wildapricot.org/page-18090.

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President's Message

Jessie Kratz

It's hard to believe this is my last President's message this past year has gone by so quickly. In my first message, I an-

nounced the Society was seeking input for a new logo, and I'm happy to say we'll be debuting it this month! I would like to thank to the committee for researching designers and finding one that understood our needs perfectly. We felt our former logo was too Washington, DC-centric. While DC is the federal capital, it is not the only place where federal history is happening. We also sought a logo that is more modern and is easier to reproduce. I believe that we have accomplished those goals with our new logo, and a special thanks to Kris Giannotta and Felicia Wivchar for making it happen.

These last few months we have been busy planning our annual meeting which is being held at the National Archives in Washington, DC, on April 25-26, 2019. A big thank you to the National Archives for hosting! The full schedule is now online and if you haven't registered please go to *shfg.org* to do so. I am also very grateful for the conference planning committee for making all the arrangements and especially to Zack Wilske, Elizabeth Charles, and Mattea Sanders for all of the work they have put into the organizing the meeting.

Make sure to join us on Thursday, April 25 for our annual awards ceremony at 1:30 p.m. It is being kicked off with remarks by Archivist of the United States David Ferriero.

On Thursday we are also holding a number of professional development events including a seminar on careers in federal history, and a workshop on Individual Development Plans (IDPs). Richard Hulver and I are holding an oral history roundtable as the first step in updating the Society's 1985 oral history guidance. Recognizing the value of oral history in telling the federal government's story, the Society formed an Oral History Subcommittee who developed definitions and guidelines for federal agency oral history projects.

It has now been almost 35 years since then and we feel we need to bring things up to date. The roundtable discussion at the annual meeting is designed to get the processing moving again, so please join us if you are interested in helping with this project or just want address your own oral history questions and concerns.

I also want to congratulate Marian L. Smith as this year's Roger R. Trask award winner. The Trask award is given annually to historians whose work reflects the unique importance of federal history and the mission of the Society. Marian served as the first Historian for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (now the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services). She is an aspiration to all federal historians, and I congratulate her on her retirement. I also look forward to her lecture on the afternoon of Friday, April 26, and invite everyone to attend it and the reception to follow.

I would also like to announce that next year's annual meeting will be held on March 13-14, 2020, at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The call for papers will go out shortly so please look for that and be sure to save the date.

It has been an honor to serve as the Society's President. I look forward to continuing my service for the next year as Past President and working with our next President, Kristin Ahlberg.

Donate to SHFG

Support New SHFG Events

Please donate to SHFG's current efforts to organize and promote new events and workshops. These events will provide opportunities for professional development: to meet colleagues, exchange ideas, and learn more about the federal community. We urge you to contribute to our General Fund. You can donate the amount of your choice, either by check or online payment (at http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Donate)

Your donations also support all activities of the Society, including publication of *The Federalist* newsletter, *Federal History* journal, and stories and news for our website; our annual conference, the Richard G. Hewlett Lecture; and programming such as occasional tours, workshops, and social events that help students and historians develop in their careers.

Spring 2019

Editor's Note

In lieu of an Editor's Note in this space, I am tempted to write only that due to a lapse in appropriations this column will not be updated until normal operations resume. In the aftermath of a 35-day partial government shutdown, questions about the history of the federal government, and about the work done by federal history practitioners, can be heard practically everywhere. The fact that archivists, curators, librarians, and other federal history professionals routinely have their work halted or curtailed by employee furloughs whenever appropriations lapse lead some to conclude that their projects are unnecessary. Far from proving their irrelevance, however, government shutdowns dramatically demonstrate the necessity of federal history projects. The public seeks context and direction from historical examples, never more so than during times of crisis and uncertainty. When history professionals are prevented from doing their work due to lapses in appropriations, it makes accurate and relevant historical information more difficult, if not impossible, to find at a time when it is needed most. The upcoming annual meeting, "Federal History as Public History," is a terrific opportunity to reflect on the significance of federal history work while exploring a variety of exciting and important projects.

In this issue of *The Federalist*, **David G. Williams** highlights an important oral history project at the United States Military Academy that I hope every SHFG member will explore online. **Albinko Hasic** explains Search Engine Optimization and how people can use it to drive more

traffic to their blog posts and websites. **Miranda Summers Lowe** describes her experiences as a curator in the Division of Armed Forces History at the National Museum of American History in the History Professional feature. I am also pleased to feature the conclusion of "A Brief History of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission" from **Christopher Eck**, Executive Director of the NHPRC, part one of which was published in the Winter 2018 issue of *The Federalist*.

A.J. Daverede focuses on a group of records pertaining to Joint Chiefs of Staff decisions in the year 1968 in his Newly Declassified Records column. The Histories and Archives Division of the Naval History and Heritage Command celebrates the 100-year anniversary of the U.S. Navy Photo Archive by asking archivists Lisa Crunk, Dave Colamaria, and Jon Roscoe to describe their favorite images in the collection. Chas Downs writes about the genesis of an SHFG guide to federal historical programs in his From the Archives column—read the article, then be sure to visit shfg.org where we have made the full text of the booklet available online! The Federalist also features calls for papers from SHFG's journal Federal History and CAMP's Journal of America's Military Past, an announcement from NARA regarding the future of presidential materials from the Obama Administration, new book information in Recent Publications, and news about a wide variety of history projects in Making History.

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

Federal History as Public History: The SHFG Annual Meeting

April 25–26, 2019, at the National Archives in Washington, DC

(Detailed schedule at http://shfg.wildapricot.org/page-18324)

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

Workshops: 9:00 a.m.-noon

Lunch Break & Business Meeting: noon-1:30 p.m.

Remarks from Archivist of the United States David Ferriero:

1:30-1:40 p.m.

Awards Ceremony: 1:40-2:45 p.m.

Workshop, Tours, Panels: 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Happy Hour (TBD)



FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Light Breakfast: 8:30-9:00 a.m.

Panels: 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Panels: 10:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

Lunch Break: 12:15-1:45 p.m.

Panels: 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Trask Lecture: 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Closing Reception: 5:00–7:00 p.m. at District Chophouse

How Government Websites Can Improve Content Reach and Tap Into SEO

By Albinko Hasic

There is no doubt that the information government organizations distribute online is important and worthwhile, not just for specialists and professionals but for the general public as well. However, many government webpages have fallen into the same trap—they provide high quality content, but face little to no visibility. Some organizations have attempted to remedy this by incorporating digital marketing in the form of social media. While this can be an effective tactic, there is another method that could broaden the reach of the information.

Search Engine Optimization (SEO) is a term that may sound frighteningly technical to many people—but, simply put, it is a set of informal rules to optimize your website and its pages for search engines such as Google and Bing. The reason is simple: optimizing your content will aid Google and other platforms to more effectively crawl your content, helping to improve your search engine rankings. With improved search engine rankings and results comes more web traffic and visitors to your website and its specific pages. Search engine optimization also improves the functionality of your website by improving the quality and user-friendliness, making it more enjoyable to read and easier to navigate.

So why is search engine optimization so important? For starters, the vast majority of search engine users are much more likely to click on the top 10 suggestions in the results pages (SERPS). With a higher position for the specific search term comes a higher degree of confidence in the website, and hence a higher likelihood the user will click on your link. There are also statistics that users who search for content via a search engine are also more likely to share the content across social media or their own platforms. This is an important fact to remember because the reach of your content can be further amplified and aggrandized.

When you perform a search on Google, the results that are displayed are based on complex algorithms only the company is privy to. However, there are certain steps webmasters can take to improve the chances of their content ranking higher on search engines. For example, even though Google's algorithms are impossible to game, there are steps authors can take to maximize their chances at a higher ranking. One of the most important factors to remember is to produce high quality content that is: 1. easy to navigate, 2. produced by a source of authority on the subject, and 3. "keyword" optimized. The first steps should be fairly obvious to anyone producing content. The content should bring some kind of value to the reader and it should come from a place of authority. This simply means that the author or organization is commonly accepted as an expert source on the subject. The third step takes a little more technical skill—but it is nothing that cannot be learned.

With keyword optimization, there are tools that can help you improve your keyword research, on-page optimization, as well as the off-page optimization of your site. What do I mean by keyword research? Simply put, it is the process of identifying the words and



Search Engine Optimization (SEO) helps people find your web content when they search the internet. (Image: National Archives Identifier 557179)

phrases you want to target in your site's on-page SEO strategy. The first step is identifying which keywords and phrases your site visitors or potential audience are searching for, or that you are writing about. There are a number of tools that can aid you in this process, such as SEMrush, Google Keywords, and Clearscope.

Once you have identified the keywords you wish to focus on, the next step is the actual on-page optimization. Again, this is a technical term that simply means producing content that will more easily be identified by search engines as the top results for the keywords you are targeting high placement for. Optimizing on page content involves several steps, most important of which is incorporating relevant keywords into the actual content. One of the best tools for this process is Clearscope. The tool can help you pull in relevant keywords that improve your content score and give your content the best chance to achieve a higher rank for a specific keyword or search phrase.

The last step in the process involves off-page optimization. Off-page optimization essentially involves gaining backlinks to your content. Search engines are more likely to rank a page highly if it has built backlinks to its content. Whenever possible, links to content across the organization's website and other websites should be incorporated for maximum reach.

One of the best benefits of SEO is that it does not involve paying for ad space or costly campaigns. While organizations can still pay for advertisements, some of which are often displayed with an Ad tag within a given search, there are many who do not pay a dime for high rankings, simply by utilizing SEO and optimizing their content. While the process of learning SEO can be somewhat technical, there are a lot of free online tools and information that can help instruct you further on how to improve your SEO skills and ultimately grow the audience of your organization's content.

Albinko Hasic is a history PhD candidate at Syracuse University and the creator of @WarThroughArt on Twitter.

Newly Declassified Records

This issue's featured declassified series is a Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) record series "Joint Secretariat: Central Files." Consisting of 84 Federal Records Center boxes, this series documents JCS actions, studies and decisions made in the course of the momentous year of 1968. These records are arranged in the Joint Staff's own numerical filing sequence that roughly parallels the military staff functions. The filing system is still in use today, although the subjects assigned to the numeric sequences today differ from the pattern in use in 1968. For example, the 200 series in 1968 contained intelligence files while intelligence files today occupy the 300 series. As one can imagine, the records contained in this series are a wide ranging survey of topics germane to the national security operations and policies for the United States, many of which deal with the ongoing war in Southeast Asia. Most of the documents are in the form of the JCS "greens," legal-sized light green sheets written in a standard JCS format. Naturally, many of the documents have been withdrawn from this series

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Appendix E to JCS 313 CY 1968 Herbicide Forecast which documents use of the Orange Herbicide, or Agent Orange as it came to be known, during 1968.

during their declassification review. For the withdrawn documents, standard National Declassification Center withdrawn 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. The four boxes in this series constitute entry A1 and entry 1Y in Record Group 218, Records of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. 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

Call for Articles: The Journal of America's Military Past

The Council on America's Military Past (CAMP) is calling for papers for its *Journal*. We welcome submissions of interesting, original articles on American military history, especially topics that deal with significant sites (which could include installations, battlefields, ships and airplanes). We also welcome articles on biography and historic preservation, especially if they are related to particular sites. Maps and photos are strongly encouraged. We ask that authors submit manuscripts by e-mail to our editors, using a system that is compatible with Microsoft Word. The length of the articles that we publish varies roughly between 2,500 and 7,500 words. The author is responsible for obtaining permission to publish any copyrighted material, and for bearing the costs of obtaining or reproducing illustrations. Interested parties should refer to the CAMP website (http://campjamp.org/) or contact the editor, Vincent W. Rospond at EditorJamp@yahoo.com.

A non-profit educational association, CAMP was founded in 1966, representing diverse professions from historians to archeologists, museologists to architects, engineers to authors, active and retired military of all ranks, genealogists to archivists, and just plain hobbyists, the Council on America's Military Past has only one requirement for membership: commitment to its objectives.

Its focus is on the places and things from America's military past, and their stories. CAMP looks to all types of military and naval posts, from stockade forts of early New England to adobe presidios of the Southwest, from temporary camps and battle-grounds of a military on the move, to elaborate coastal defense installations along America's coastlines. For CAMP, old ships and airplanes are also posts.

The Journal of America's Military Past is a scholarly publication with interesting, illustrated articles on historic posts and battle-fields and their people. The journal includes a robust book review section that, by itself, makes it worth reading. It is published three times a year.

The History Professional

An Interview with Miranda Summers Lowe

Miranda Summers Lowe is a curator in the Division of Armed Forces History at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, and a captain with the District of Columbia Army National Guard. She earned her B.A. from the College of William and Mary, and her M.A. from Brown University.



Miranda Summers Lowe

Interview by Thomas Faith

Why did you decide to become a military curator at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History?

I've spent most of my military career explaining the army: as a student, I was explaining what I did to my classmates. When I worked in public affairs, I was working with media. I realized that I loved bridging the gap. The Smithsonian attracts a wonderfully diverse collection of visitors from all over the world from every age and interest. I liked the idea of presenting military history to a general audience rather than working in a military history museum where most of the audience was already military. I was excited to work on a venue on the national mall and with a fantastic collection of objects to place military history in context.

What do you think are some strengths of the Smithsonian's collection related to the U.S. military?

For over a century, Smithsonian kept the national military collection. We have an exhaustive collection of pre-20th century uniforms and equipage, which is a rich resource to dip into. We have a good collection of items from notable members of the military, but also a good collection from the everyday soldier, the homefront, and support personnel. I think one of our greatest strengths is that we're a museum full of many kinds of experts. I might find a first aid kit in our collection, or in the medical history collection, and each curator would have a different rationale for collecting it. As a researcher, I think the objects where different divisions intersect are some of the most interesting objects.

What considerations do you make when curating objects from present-day military activities?

The time scale on Global War on Terror (GWOT) collecting is probably my greatest concern. I get a little jealous talking to say, a Civil War curator, who only needs to focus on five years, whereas I'm working on 18 years and counting! Even if I just wanted to display something like a standard issue army uniform, I'd need to collect at least three at this point, with dozens of variations. At this point I look for inflection points on policy, technology, or tactics. I also think it's important to collect the enemy, the homefront and support personnel. In this era,

that includes contractors and embedded journalists. The homefront is fascinating because we have the same personnel returning for three or four mobilizations, so the lines between being at war or at home are blurred.

What kind of work did you do as an intern at the museum where you are now employed full time?

My biggest project as an intern was thinking about post 9/11 collecting, so there's one big thing in common! I think the biggest difference is that as an intern, I thought my career would be in museum education, so I focused on programming. I was exposed to curatorial as an intern, and ended up working in that field mostly because of the experience.

What was the biggest challenge you managed during the transition into civilian employment after returning from deployment overseas?

I think the hardest thing is losing the sense of purpose. I've deployed twice now: once to Iraq, once to the Horn of Africa. I was lucky enough to be on excellent teams and have deep, meaningful work. There's a purpose and an intensity to waking up every morning and knowing that you're needed that nothing else compares to.

Do your experiences in the National Guard influence your work as a curator?

My experiences serving in the National Guard have certainly changed my perspective on military history. I'm less interested in big names and big battles than I used to be and more interested in how the military affects and is affected by social and cultural change. When I go to drill and work with this incredible group of ethnically, racially, geographically diverse soldiers, and then read the histories that don't reflect that, it doesn't sit well with me. I don't think that members of the military are exceptional. In fact, I wish that service was much more commonplace. The process of taking a group of people and creating a force that can do exceptional things and protect an exceptional country—that's where the story lies.

In your experience, what is the biggest benefit to historical programs who employ military veterans?

I think that veterans are taught to structure their thinking from the moment we join. Any good academic program does that as well, but I think that the military does a good job of extending that structure outside of how we write and into how we treat each other and how we work in teams. Especially if the military funded their education, I see more racial and geographic variation in veteran hires, and there's a lot of strength in the diversity of thought. I know that I wouldn't have been able to get the education and experience I have without the army.

What advice can you offer curators and other professionals about strategies to further their impact across social media?

I think social media has expanded the conversations that used to only happen in publications and conferences into

something that's more accessible and improvisational. The fission can be deeply motivating and fulfilling. I think the best advice I can offer is that social media is a conversation. I see a lot of people who post on Facebook or twitter, but they don't respond to other posts or even the comments on their own posts. I think we forget that you need to give to get. It's scary to show your in-progress work or frustrating to take the time to answer an inquiry that's not fully formed, but it's all part of being in a community.

Finally, what is your favorite aspect of your duties?

I like sharing history with people. I like public programs. I actually love a good research inquiry. I can write an article and never know if anyone read it, but with a query, I know that at least one person cared deeply.

NARA and Obama Foundation Sign a Digitization Memorandum of Understanding

The following news was posted at the National Archives AOTUS Blog on February 19, 2019, by David S. Ferriero:

This week, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Barack Obama Foundation agreed on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding the plan to digitize all of the unclassified textual Presidential records of the Obama administration. The Foundation will select the vendor, with NARA approval, and oversee the contract.

The digitization plan was first outlined in May 2017, and this MOU is the first agreement coming out of the Letter of Intent signed in September 2018. Approximately 30 million pages of unclassified Presidential records at the Obama Library will be scanned, and the scanned images and associated metadata will become part of the Electronic Records Archives. Because the records are governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA), the archival staff of the Obama Library will review the material before their release. The records will then be made digitally available to the public through the National Archives Catalog and the Obama Library website.

Last September we signed a Letter of Intent with the Obama Foundation and, as promised, have continued to work toward an agreement for the digitization of the unclassified textual records of the Barack Obama administration. I am pleased with the progress that this MOU represents and look forward to further progress as NARA and the Obama Foundation partner on this exciting new model. For information about the records of the Obama administration, visit www.obamalibrary.gov. Information about the new model for the Obama Presidential



President Barack Obama works at the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office, 10/11/2013. (National Archives Identifier 118818001)

Library can be found at https://www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/information-about-new-model-for-obama-presidential-library.

GET INVOLVED!

SHFG is seeking enthusiastic members to serve on committees and to help with events.

For more information, please visit our website and fill out a questionnaire!

http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Volunteer

A Brief History of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission – Part II

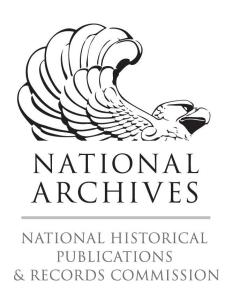
By Christopher R. Eck

In September 1950, the passage of the Federal Records Act increased the composition of the National Historical Publications Commission from 7 to 11 members and directed the agency to "cooperate with and encourage appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies and nongovernmental institutions, societies, and individuals in collecting and preserving and, when it deems such action to be desirable, in editing and publishing the papers of outstanding citizens of the United States and such other documents as may be important for an understanding and appreciation of the history of the United States."

In 1954, following the issuance of a preliminary report in 1951, the Commission sent to President Truman a report on "A National Program for the Publication of Historical Documents." Drawing from the 1951 report's recommendation for the publication of the papers of 361 individuals, the 1954 report suggested a smaller list of 112 people whose papers should be given priority, five of whom being of such outstanding importance that work should begin immediately (Benjamin Franklin, John and John Quincy Adams, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton). It noted that the publication of the 1951 report had inspired others outside of the Commission to begin work on the papers of several historical figures (John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, John Carroll, James Monroe, John Wesley Powell, and Francis Asbury). Additionally, the Commission—working with the National Archives and the Library of Congress-began work on microfilming the papers of Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun and started gathering material on the ratification of the Constitution and Bill of Rights and on the First Federal Congress from repositories across the country.

It was in 1964—after the late President John F. Kennedy endorsed the work of the Commission in both a letter and in a luncheon at the White House calling for the funding of its work the prior year—that the first sizeable appropriation was made (\$350,000). This was supported by a \$2 million grant to the Commission that year by the Ford Foundation for publishing of the papers of the Adams Family, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. On November 6, 1964, the Commission awarded its first grant: \$52,000 to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin for *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*.

From 1964-1971, Congress provided an annual appropriation of \$350,000 to the Commission. In response, the Commission awarded up to three dozen grants a year to applicants from across the country. Many of these early projects were directed to microfilming projects to better expand access to important collections of records, such as the Bexar Archives of colonial Texas records and the papers of President Warren G. Harding held by the Ohio Historical Society.



The Commission provided the initial funding for editions that continue to be published, such as *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, and for graduate student fellowships in documentary editing.

The Commission formed special committees focused on African American and Women's history in 1972, chaired by historian Edgar A. Toppin and Assistant Librarian of Congress Elizabeth Hamer Kegan respectively. In 1974, annual appropriations from Congress steadily increased, as the result of legislation establishing the Commission with its current name (NHPRC), expanding both the number of commissioners as well as the scope of its activities to allow for the preservation of records of state and local governments and private institutions, and permitting annual funding up to \$4 million. Over the next several years, the number of grants increased, with 158 grants awarded in 1979. Among the projects supported were the 26th volume of The Papers of Alexander Hamilton (long a priority of the Commission), as well as the first volume of The Papers of Frederick Douglass. Responding to changes in the Commission's authority, by the end of 1976, 35 states and territories create State Historical Records Advisory Boards (SHRAB) to participate in expanded grant making.

Between 1980 and 1989, funding for the Commission remained largely flat at \$4 million, with the exception of 1982 (\$2.5 million) and 1983 (\$3 million). During this period, the NHPRC supported a wide variety of projects, such as the publication by the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) on *Local Government Records: An Introduction to Management, Preservation, and Use*, as well as publications on the papers of John Jay, Andrew Jackson, Marcus Garvey, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, and many others.

Among the most influential projects supported by the NHPRC were *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation, 1861-1867*, led by the late historian Ira Berlin, as well as the Pulitzer Prize winning work, *Mary Chestnut's Civil War*, edited by C. Vann Woodward, which would be cited extensively by filmmaker Ken Burns in his documentary series, *The Civil War* (1990).

Overall funding for the NHPRC during the decade of the 1990s



Coretta Scott King letter to NHPRC supporting the publication of her late husband's papers, 1984.

rose, fluctuating between 5 and 10 million dollars. During this period, *The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.* were first released, following extensive financial support from the NHPRC beginning in the mid-1980s. In the summer of 1996, in keeping with changing technology and public access, the website for the National Archives and the NHPRC began.

The year 2000 marked the completion of one of the oldest scholarly editions supported by the Commission, *The Papers of Andrew Johnson*, which had begun in 1956. Also in 2000, the NHPRC approved a \$150,000 grant to publish a five-volume letterpress edition of the *Papers of Eleanor Roosevelt*, as well as support a multi-media internet edition.

The leap to digital access for records was significantly enhanced in one of the most popular efforts undertaken by the Commission, on behalf of the National Archives, with the creation of Founders Online (https://founders.archives.gov/), through a cooperative agreement with The University of Virginia Press in 2010. Working with a number of the editorial projects funded by the NHPRC at the University of Virginia, Princeton University, the Massachusetts Historical Society, Columbia University, Yale University, and others, Founders Online now hosts more than

181,000 fully annotated and searchable 18th- and 19th-century documents from Founding Fathers projects.

In the more than 50 years that the NHPRC has been providing grant support to the nation's archives, it has helped preserve, publish, and make more accessible to the American people their archives in every medium—from manuscripts to film and audio recordings to digital files—covering records from the sixteenth century to the twenty-first century. Since 1976 alone, more than \$230,000,000 has been allocated directly to several thousand grant projects gleaned from applications sent in from every state and US territory (with the exception of Guam), as well as funding thousands of regrants that are administered through state historical records advisory boards' programs.

The NHPRC is continuously evaluating the areas where additional resources can have the greatest effect. This year, the Commission approved language to encourage grant applications that address working with the nation's early legal records, as this is a body of documents that touches on every aspect of American life and is recognized as a rich resource for a variety of historical research efforts.

For a small organization and one of the smallest (if not the smallest) federal grant-making agency, the effects of the NHPRC's efforts have been extraordinary. The products of projects funded by the Commission are regularly referenced by scholars and it remains true to its original mandate to "make plans, estimates, and recommendations for such historical works and collections of sources as seem appropriate for publication and/or otherwise recording at the public expense." And, in line with one of the major goals outlined in its 2016 *Strategic Plan*, the NHPRC is working every day to "connect the National Archives with the work of the nation's archives."

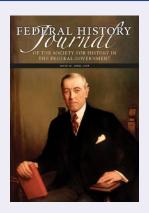
Christopher R. Eck is the Executive Director of the NHPRC. Part I of his "Brief History of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission" was printed in the Winter 2018 issue of The Federalist.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Federal History

Federal History, journal of the Society for History in the Federal Government, seeks articles for its 2020 issue. Federal History features scholarship on the history of the federal government, including military history, 1776–present. The journal also welcomes articles on methodological issues in federal historical work, including institutional history, archival science, historic preservation, museum studies, oral history, memory studies, web-based history, and other related areas.

We welcome manuscripts from SHFG members and others working in the federal government, as well as independent scholars and historians working in public history and academia. *Federal History* is an open-access journal, with print copies sent to SHFG members.



See http://shfg.wildapricot.org/page-18315 for details on submissions, which should be sent to federalhistory@gmail.com.

Deadline: April 30, 2019

From the Archives

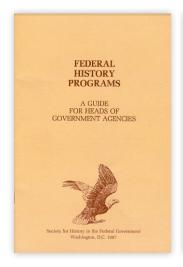
The SHFG's Guides to Federal Historical Programs

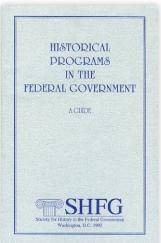
By Chas Downs

basic long-term goal of the Society for History in the Federal Government always has been to increase the number of historical offices in Federal agencies. An important means to that end was the creation of a publication intended to introduce heads of Federal agencies to the value of having historical programs in their agencies. In his column in The Federalist (Volume 6, Number 3, September 1985), SHFG President Richard Baker announced the creation of a new Committee on Historical Offices and Programs, which was to "produce a publication useful to federal agency executives considering, creating or upgrading historical programs as well as to the historians responsible for administering these programs." In the very next issue of The Federalist (Volume 6, Number 4, December 1985, p. 4), committee chair Susan Falb announced the committee's major activity for 1985-1986: the creation of a publication on the role of historians in the Federal government. This publication was intended to "describe in general how historical offices function", and encourage their creation by agencies lacking them. As Falb announced in the Spring 1987 Federalist (Volume 8, Number 1, p. 5), the Committee had completed a draft publication titled Federal History Programs: A Guide for Heads of Government Agencies. This guide was targeted for senior level managers of federal agencies, as well as state and local officials. It was approved by the Executive Council, and published in 1987.

As published, Federal History Programs consisted of 12 pages and a table of contents. The topics covered were: Introduction; History and Agency Management; Institutional History; Historical Reports; Documentary Collections; Oral History; Research Collections, Records Management, and FOIA; Reference Service; Historic Preservation and Museums; Training; Agency Anniversaries and National Historical Events; Establishing a Federal Historical Office; and Federal Agencies with Historical Programs. Information about the SHFG appeared inside the back cover. Each segment described the functions that a history office could perform, usually with examples. The section on "Establishing a Federal Historical Office" listed five basic steps. The first was to determine the need for a history office, then outline its functions. Next decide on the organizational location of the office, appoint the initial staff, and provide for office space and a budget. The guide closed by referring to the availability of advice, assistance, and resources from other offices and the SHFG.

Both the Executive Council and individual SHFG





Above: Cover of Federal History Programs, 1987.

Above right: Cover of Historical Programs in the Federal Government, 1992.

Right: Susan Falb, chair of the SHFG Committee on Historical Offices and Programs.



members found the guide to be very useful to explain the rational for having historical offices in the federal government to the general public, as well as to agency officials. The Society was well-served by this publication, since it not only advanced the basic goal of encouraging the creation and expansion of historical programs, it increased the SHFG's name recognition and standing in the historical community.

SHFG President Roger Trask, in *The Federalist* (Volume 8, Number 2, Summer 1991, p. 2), noted that the SHFG's publishing program, despite its importance, had suffered from the Society's tight budget. Specifically mentioning the "continuing demand" for Federal History Programs: A Guide for Heads of Government Agencies, he noted that the booklet was "out of print and needs revising and reissuing." Trask felt this need strongly enough to personally complete its revision after he retired as SHFG president. The very next year in her President's Corner article (The Federalist Volume 9, Number 2, Summer 1992, p. 2), the new SHFG President Charlene Bickford announced that the SHFG had "revised and republished our popular 'Historical Programs in the Federal Government: A Guide.' We hope that this document will assist our members as they advocate for the establishment of, the continued existence of, and or even expansion of historical programs in the Federal Government."

It is a testimony to the vision of authors of the original version of the guide that much of it remained unchanged in

the 1992 revision. The new version slightly altered the format and increased number of pages to 15. The table of contents was deleted, as was the "List of Federal Agencies with Historical Programs." New examples were added to some sections to better emphasize the text, and the "Historical Reports" topic was expanded to include "Policy Research." The part dealing with "Establishing a Federal Historical Office" was expanded to include a sixth item, "For Advice and Assistance."

Perhaps the most telling change was that of the title, emphasizing "historical programs" rather than using the

somewhat misleading nomenclature of "Federal History Programs." Also eliminated was the rather intimidating phrase "for Heads of Government Agencies." By just calling it "A Guide" it was clearly appropriate for a wider audience, which greatly increased its utility to both the SHFG and the public.

A copy of the 1992 version of the *Guide* will be posted at *shfg.org*. 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*.

"Center for Oral History" from page 1

The COH's archives live on its webpage which is organized by the featured "Homepage Interview," "Most Viewed" below that, followed by a "Recently Added" section on the landing page. Content is further divided by "Archives" and "Interviews." The COH categorizes its "Interviews" section with the tabs "Conflict," "Location," and "Theme," to help navigate and filter, allowing researchers to quickly sort and access its material. One example of the impressive scope of topics is "Across the Frozen River: A Korean Family's Desperate Escape from the North," an interview with Mrs. Sung Yoon who describes her mother's journey from North to South Korea to find her father during the Korean War, as well as Mrs. Sung's later experiences as an immigrant to the United States and a military spouse. On the other end of the spectrum, interviews with retired Generals Eric K. Shinseki, Mark P. Hertling, and Lloyd Austin, among other senior military leaders, delve into multilevel direct and organizational leadership, teamwork, and the Cold War. General Shinseki provided an interview specifically about leading the Department of Veteran's Affairs as well as one focused on his military career.

The "Archives" section groups topical material under six broad headings that are sponsored by specific USMA graduating classes and individual donors: "USMA Leaders Through History;" "The Vietnam War;" "Combatting Terrorism;" "Soldier to Citizen: Life After the Service;" "Honor and Integrity;" and "The Brent Scowcroft Series in Military History." The Scowcroft series is the newest collection and features 10-to-15-minutes-long documentaries specifically created to promote classroom discussion of important military issues with broader implications for the U.S. The series currently includes films about drones, PTSD, repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and Chaplain Father Philip Salois. There are several topics under development including the all-volunteer force, the cyber domain of war, and the concept of nation building. USMA instructors integrate the Scowcroft Series documentaries into lesson plans where appropriate to expose cadets



LTC Channing Greene and Dave Siry discuss peacekeeping operations in Haiti during the summer of 1995 in their oral history interview at the Center for Oral History.

to these broader, and often controversial, topics and promote both critical thinking and civil discourse.

Despite their well-known limitations, oral histories remain an important element of the profession because they layer the interactions between individual perceptions and collective memory construction over official records and other primary source documents to provide an enriched reconstruction of the past. Researchers interested in the profession of arms, war and society, more traditional military history, or the Federal Government will undoubtedly find useful resources in the West Point Center for Oral History. The COH's holdings are available at www.west-pointcoh.org, and interested researchers can connect with the COH across social media platforms. Lieutenant Colonel David Siry and Lieutenant Commander (retired) Scott Granger are the COH's director and deputy director respectively and can be reached at HISToralhistory@westpoint.edu.

David G. Williams is a marketing officer at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY.

A Century of Service with the U.S. Navy Photo Archive

January 2019 marked the 100-year anniversary of the creation of the U.S. Navy's Photo Archive, currently held at the Naval History and Heritage Command at the Washington Navy Yard. The Navy's collection of historical records predates the National Archives (established in 1934) and originally began in the Office of Naval Records and Library (NR&L). The first expansion of the activities of the Historical Section had been the establishment on January 1, 1919, of a Pictorial Branch whose purpose was to collect and file, under proper references, photographs illustrating activities of U.S. and foreign navies. A follow-up in the form of an ALNAV 86 dated March 14, 1919, requested that copies of photographs and motion pictures of naval activities, ships, bases, personnel, and incidents taken during the war be forwarded to the Historical Section. Subsequently a letter over the signature of the Secretary of the Navy addressed to all Bureaus stated:

"A photographic Division of the Historical Section has been established, in which will be gathered and filed all the photographs of historic interest taken of Naval activities during the war. As the issuance of a Pictorial History of the War is contemplated, it is desirable for the Historical Section to have copies of all Navy photographs of interest; and it is requested that each Bureau furnish to the Historical Section, Room 1732, Navy Department, two copies of all such photographs it has, and that each contractor who was engaged in Navy work be requested to furnish such photographs."

The Photo Archive (https://www.history.navy.mil/our-collections/photography.html), in its current state, is part of the Histories and Archives Division of the Naval History and Heritage Command. The Photo Archive's collections are related to the U.S. Navy (or other navies when specifically associated with U.S. involvement or historical events) with specific emphasis on ships, aviation, places, wars/events, activities, and significant individuals associated with naval history. Photographs in the collection reflect both official and unofficial naval viewpoints and consist of mostly private donations by the general public. The general date range of the collection is from the mid-19th century to the 1990s, with particular focus on the World War II era. Our entire holdings consist of approximately one million photographs dating as early as pre-Civil War. Formats include daguerreotype, ambrotype, carte de visite, cyanotype, glass plate negatives, prints, transparencies, slides, and negatives.

Given that the photographs donated to the Naval History and Heritage Command are generally personal photography, taken by the Sailors themselves, the collection offers a more personal viewpoint of life in the Navy. The images show the sometimes monotonous, day-to-day aspects of Sailors' lives as



A sampling of the Photo Archives. Our entire holdings consist of approximately one million photographs dating as early as the Civil War.

well as the horrors of war and their aftermath. So, given we now have a century-old collection with almost 1 million pieces, we asked the three photo archivists, "what are your favorites??," and received three very different answers!

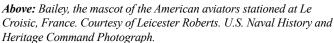
Lisa Crunk, Lead Photo Archivist

Our collection is filled with truly amazing and unique photography that spans U.S. naval history, but it is the images that bring people together on a more personal level that I have an appreciation for-the things that remind you of everyday life back home. Sailors come from all walks of life; having varied backgrounds, different beliefs or religions, but it seems that everybody loves animals. By the 19th century, animals were kept as pets and mascots aboard ships and at shore stations. All types of creatures could be found roaming the decks of Navy ships, from the mundane (dogs, cats, and birds) to the bizarre (kangaroos, monkeys, and bears). My favorite photos in the archive are those of mascots, with one in particular—Bailey. Bailey was the mascot of the American aviators stationed at the naval air station at Le Croisic, France during WWI (Catalog # UA 43.07). How can a little dog dressed in aviator goggles and a cape not be the best image ever?!

Dave Colamaria, Photo Archivist

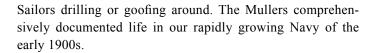
I particularly enjoy the early 20th century photography of Enrique Muller and his son Enrique Muller, Jr. The pair had a knack for capturing interesting scenes, whether it be a battleship underway throwing up a huge bow wave, or a group of





Top right: USS Arizona (BB 39) In the East River, New York City, at the time of her trials, circa mid-1916. She is accompanied by many tugs, and has small pine trees mounted in her mast tops. Tug Hudson is in the lower center. Photographed by Enrique Muller, Jr. Courtesy of Sid Taylor, 1983. U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command Photograph.

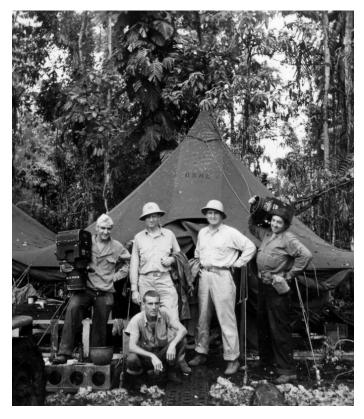
Right: RADM Robert Quackenbush's Gypsies with equipment in the South Pacific. Courtesy of RADM Robert Quackenbush. U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command Photograph.



Jon Roscoe, Photo Archivist

My favorite collection in the Photo Archive is the RADM Robert Quackenbush Photo Collection because it shows the growing importance of naval photography within the larger U.S. Navy. Quackenbush, a 1927 graduate of the Naval Academy, was the first head of naval photography at NAS Anacostia. During WWII, he led a group of photographers

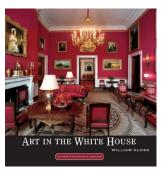




known as "Quackenbush's Gypsies" that were given free rein to travel throughout the Pacific to photograph the Navy's actions. He took photographs during the Atomic tests at Bikini in 1946 and eventually served as commanding officer of USS Randolph (CV 15) and NAS Key West. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

This article was posted at the Naval History and Heritage Command blog The Sextant, on February 25, 2019, at http://usnhistory.navylive.dodlive.mil/2019/02/25/a-century-of-service-with-the-u-s-navy-photo-archive/, and is reprinted here with permission.

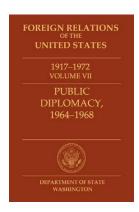
Recent Publications



Art in the White House, by art historian William Kloss, serves as a comprehensive catalog of the White House fine arts collection. This collection consists of more than 500 masterpieces America's most celebrated artists, including Albert Bierstadt, Charles Bird King, Mary Cassatt, Winslow Homer, Georgia O'Keeffe, John Singer Sargent,

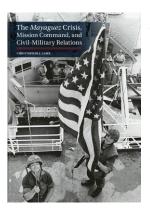
and Gilbert Stuart. Originally published in 1992 and updated in 2008, this third edition contains a supplement detailing acquisitions in the last ten years by America's most famous modern painters, such as Roy Lichtenstein, Josef Albers, Robert Rauschenberg, and Alma Thomas.

This lavishly illustrated, award-winning volume presents short essays by Kloss on a selection of more than 100 works and extended essays on the collection itself by art historians John Wilmerding, Doreen Bolger, and David Park Curry. The issue also includes a catalog compiled by the White House Office of the Curator. Available for purchase at https://shop.whitehouse-3rd-edition.



The Department of State released Foreign Relations of the United States, 1917–1972, Volume VII, Public Diplomacy, 1964–1968. This volume documents the efforts of the Lyndon B. Johnson administration to craft public diplomacy and information policy during the middle period of the Cold War. A major emphasis is on the various ways the United States Information Agency (USIA) presented U.S. foreign policy objectives to global audiences during a time of great social upheaval within the

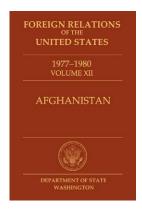
United States, particularly during the Civil Rights movement. It also describes how the Johnson administration ensured both USIA and the Department of State utilized a variety of public diplomacy tools in the face of numerous crises that defined the 1960s. These crises included the assassination of John F. Kennedy and transition to the Johnson administration, the Dominican Republic intervention, the ongoing nuclear test-ban treaty negotiations, the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, and, most significant, the Vietnam war, which was a dominant focus through Johnson's presidency. Additional documentation chronicles the Johnson administration's attempts to reassure the world of U.S. stability following Kennedy's death, to promote a domestic policy during a period of tumult and great cultural change, and to advance the Department of State's educational exchange activities, particularly with the Soviet Union and the developing world. Read it online at https://history.state. gov/historicaldocuments/frus1917-72PubDipv07.



The Mayaguez crisis is one of the best documented but least-understood crises in U.S. history. Copious documentation, including declassified White House meeting minutes and notes from private conversations, has not produced a good, consensus explanation for U.S. behavior. The event is still explained as a rescue mission, a defense of freedom of the seas, an exercise in realpolitik, a political gambit to enhance President Ford's domestic political fortunes,

and a national spasm of violence arising from frustration over losing Vietnam. Widespread confusion about what happened and why it did contributes to equally confused explanations for U.S. behavior. Even President Gerald R. Ford never understood the exact roles his two strongest advisors, Henry A. Kissinger and James R. Schlesinger, played during the crisis.

Christopher J. Lamb's *The Mayaguez Crisis, Mission Command, and Civil-Military Relations* demonstrates how three decades of scholarship mischaracterized U.S. motives and why the allegation of civilian micromanagement is wrong. He then extracts lessons for current issues such as mission command philosophy, civil-military relations, and national security reform. In closing he makes the argument that the incredible sacrifices made by U.S. servicemen during the crisis might have been avoided but were not in vain. Available for purchase through the U.S. Government Publishing Office at https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/mayaguez-crisis-mission-command-and-civil-military-relations.

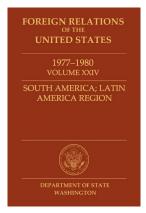


The Department of State released Foreign Relations of the United States, 1977–1980, Volume XII, Afghanistan. This volume is part of a Foreign Relations subseries that documents the most important foreign policy issues of the Jimmy Carter administration. The focus of this volume is on the Carter administration's approach to events in Afghanistan during the buildup of the Soviet Union's presence in that country beginning in early 1978 and culminating in the large-scale in-

vasion of Soviet troops at the end of 1979. Officials in the Carter administration regarded Soviet actions as among the most flagrant violations of international norms during the Cold War. The volume is arranged chronologically, with the majority of documents concentrated around the crisis period during the lead-up to the invasion, and during the aftermath, when the Carter administration formulated a range of policy responses to challenge the Soviet Union's domination of Afghanistan.

This compilation was compiled and edited by David Zierler.

The PDF version of the volume and press release are available on the Office of the Historian website at https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1977-80v12. The full text and ebooks of the volume will be released on a later date. Copies of the volume will be available for purchase from the U.S. Government Publishing Office online at http://bookstore.gpo.gov (GPO S/N 044-000-02697-0; ISBN 978-0-16-094970-8), or by calling toll-free 1-866-512-1800 (D.C. area 202-512-1800). For further information, contact history@state.gov.



The Department of State released Foreign Relations of the United States, 1977–1980, Volume XXIV, South America; Latin America Region. Two compilations in this volume, on Argentina and the Latin America Region, were previously released in October 2017 as part of the Argentina Declassification Project. Today's publication completes the volume with compilations on nine more South American countries. This volume is part of a subseries of volumes of the Foreign Relations series

that documents the foreign policy of the administration of President Jimmy Carter. The Carter administration's human rights policy made both a broad and unpredictable impact on U.S. relations with South American nations. In Ecuador, the policy led the United States to press for the first free elections in 6 years, which were held successfully. The same focus on Bolivia, however, could not stave off a period of political

instability that saw four coups in just over two years, including the notorious "cocaine coup" in July 1980. Administration perceptions of the different degrees to which countries were willing to reform their human rights practices led to a cooling toward Paraguay and a warming toward Uruguay. The ongoing investigation into the assassinations of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and U.S. citizen Ronni Moffitt in Washington in 1976 also led to a deep chill in U.S. relations with Chile.

Compilations regarding U.S. policy toward a number of other countries focus on other issues. In Venezuela, the administration enjoyed a close working relationship with President Carlos Andres Perez, encompassed by the ongoing investigations into the Cubana Airlines bombing and Letelier assassination. Only occasional high-level attention was paid to Colombia, most notably during a hostage crisis involving U.S. Ambassador Diego Asencio. The compilation on Peru focuses on U.S. relations with its leftist military junta, dealing with the Peruvian economic crisis, and eventual elections. U.S. relations with Brazil were generally cool during the Carter administration, with disputes over non-proliferation, trade, and human rights at the forefront of bilateral problems.

This volume was compiled and edited by Sara Berndt. The PDF version of the volume and press release are available on the Office of the Historian website at http://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1977-80v24. The full text and ebooks of the volume will be released on a later date. Copies of the volume will be available for purchase from the U.S. Government Publishing Office online at http://bookstore.gpo.gov (GPO S/N 044-000-02698-8; ISBN 978-0-16-094930-2), or by calling toll-free 1-866-512-1800 (D.C. area 202-512-1800). For further information, contact history@state.gov.

Making History

Albert Lepage Center for History in the Public Interest

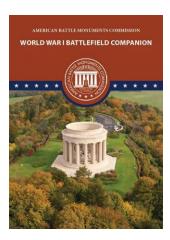
In December 2018, the Lepage Center joined institutions from several countries for a meeting in London on how to better connect historians and policymakers. The result was an agreement among international partners to work collaboratively towards infusing more historical scholarship and historical perspective into policy decisions around the world. In addition to the Lepage Center for History in the Public Interest, partner organizations included: The American Historical Association; The National History Center; History & Policy UK; Australian Policy and History Network; Kilarney Economic Conference, Ireland; and Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research, South Africa. In cooperation with our domestic partners, including the Luskin Center for History and Policy, these organizations have committed to working together in the years ahead on a joint endeavor to raise historical consciousness among elected officials, civil servants, and voters, and bringing historians and policymakers into closer conversation. Please continue to stay in touch with the Lepage Center for more information in the months and years ahead. Read about the London meeting on the APHN (http://aph.org.au/report-from-london-inaugural-international-history-and-policy-conference/) and History & Policy (http://www.historyandpolicy.org/) websites.

As the 50th anniversary of 1968 drew to a close, the Lepage Center is also proud to have launched a new podcast that examines six key issues from that iconic year that remain relevant in 2018: Income inequality, endless war, distrust in government, development, student activism, and the environment. Today these issues are at the forefront of public consciousness, debated by elected officials, policymakers, activists, students, journalists, and the general public. Through scholarship and conversation, our new podcast mini-series reveals how these contemporary challenges are decades in the making. By examining the year 1968, we can see more clearly the origins of these issues facing society today—and perhaps bring us one step closer to finding solutions. Listen to "1968: In Hindsight" on our website (https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/artsci/lepage/resources/podcasts.html), iTunes, or Google Play.

American Battle Monuments Commission

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) has

released its World War I Battlefield Companion in digital format. Free to download, this book serves as a guide for visitors to Europe who want to learn more about American involvement in World War I, and see the geographic locations where major events occurred. From ABMC cemeteries and memorials, to private monuments large and small, more than 50 different stops are highlighted. Read it using the link at https:// www.abmc.gov/news-events/ news/abmc-releases-digital-versionwwi-battlefield-companion.



Association of National Park Rangers

The Association of National Park Rangers released the following statement on January 26, 2019: The Association of National Park Rangers would like to extend its gratitude to all Park Rangers and their valiant efforts throughout the shutdown while facing personal financial uncertainty. Apart from the highly publicized resource and infrastructure damage, it's regrettable that many important trainings were forced to be canceled over the last 35 days as well. Some of these will be impossible to reschedule and will have a direct impact on Rangers' ability to respond to emergency situations in the coming summer season. With the shutdown occurring during the time that many parks hire their summer seasonal positions, we recognize the burden now placed on hiring managers service-wide to fill the National Park Service's front line Rangers who most directly engage with the public. Finally as Rangers return to their parks, we thank our timekeepers who are now charged with the unenviable task of quickly and accurately entering the information to allow for the rapid processing of backpayments. ANPR expresses its strong desire that Congress and the President work diligently to ensure future shutdowns do not occur. This is for the benefit of the public, National Park Service, and most importantly its Rangers.

Center for Land Use Interpretation

The Center for Land Use Interpretation announced the opening of its most recent exhibit *Lighter Than Air: The Rise (and Fall) of American Helium.* Helium, a light, noble element, is abundant in the universe, but is rare in the atmosphere, as it is always rising and escaping into space. A century ago, gas fields with high concentrations of helium were discovered in the middle of the country, and the government took over its production, guiding nearly a hundred years of airship evolution. This exhibit explores our efforts to capture and harness the persistent rise of this lighter-than-air gas, between its confinement in the ground, and its escape into the heavens. It is a portrait of our relationship with this invisible element, drawn from an examination of helium's passage over the landscape of the nation.

Civil War Governors of Kentucky

The Civil War Governors of Kentucky Digital Documentary

Edition (CWGK) editorial staff recently annotated their 1,000th document. They have identified and written short biographies of each person who appears in 1,000 of the more than 10,000 documents that make up CWGK. Members of the editorial staff share their thoughts on this achievement at http://civilwargovernors.org/cwgk-annotates-1000-documents/. CWGK is also pleased to announce the addition of Sarah Haywood to the project's editorial staff. Haywood's position is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and is focused on preparing both texts and annotations for publication in the newly expanded CWGK web interface.

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

At a ceremony conducted in Da Nang on December 11, Vietnamese officials repatriated to Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) representatives what are believed to be the remains of three Americans unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. DPAA Deputy Director for Operations Rear Admiral Jon Kreitz led the U.S. delegation that participated in the ceremony during which DPAA Detachment Two Commander Lt. Col. Adam Points officially accepted the remains. The ceremony was part of a two-day visit that Kreitz made to Vietnam to commemorate the 30th anniversary of sustained United States-Vietnamese joint field activities (JFAs) that officially began in September 1988, to account for U.S. personnel who are missing from the Vietnam War. The more than 130 JFAs in Vietnam have resulted in remains associated with 474 individuals being recovered and repatriated since the beginning of sustained cooperation in 1988. (https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1710979/dpaa-marks-30-years-of-sustained-joint*field-activities-with-vietnam/*)

Department of State

The Department of State announced on December 6, 2018, the release of newly digitized versions of fourteen volumes from the Foreign Relations of the United States series, the official documentary record of U.S. foreign relations. These volumes cover events that took place between 1861 and 1866 and were originally published in print between 1861 and 1867. This release is part of the Office of the Historian's ongoing project, in partnership with the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center, to digitize the entire Foreign Relations series. The University graciously provided high quality scanned images of each printed book, which the Office further digitized to create a full text searchable edition. These volumes are available online and as free ebooks at the Office of the Historian's website (https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments). With this release, the FRUS digital archive now contains a complete set of all 511 printed volumes from the series to date. Two indexes to the 1861-1918 volumes and thirteen microfiche supplements covering 1955-1963 are being digitized, but due to the size and condition of these materials, these will be released as resources allow.

Department of the Interior

Acting U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt issued the following statement on January 25, 2019: "I thank President Trump for his leadership, which resulted in a deal to end the shutdown and reopen the government. Our dedicated employees are

ready to get to work. Additionally, we would like to thank our partners for their generosity and cooperation during the partial lapse in appropriations. Border security remains a top priority of the Trump Administration, and I am hopeful that over the next three weeks Congress presents the President with a border security package that keeps America safe."

George C. Marshall Foundation

It is with a combination of regret and gratitude that we announce the resignation of Dr. Rob Havers as President of the George C. Marshall Foundation, effective January 25, 2019. Rob has accepted the position of President/CEO of the Pritzker Military Museum & Library in Chicago, IL. For the past five years, Rob has directed the strategic vision and focus of the Foundation. He has worked diligently and successfully to carry out its mission, which is to preserve and perpetuate the legacy of George C. Marshall, soldier, statesman and exemplar. We thank Rob for his tremendous efforts on behalf of our organization and wish him well in his new endeavors. We will miss his inspired leadership.

Over the next several months, we will be conducting a global search to find a new President. During this period of transition, our priority is to find the best candidate to lead, while effectively pursuing goals already established for the organization. Again, we thank Rob for his enthusiasm, dedication and high spiritedness in leading us for the past half-decade. He will be missed by our Trustees, Council of Advisers, Foundation Members, staff and donors. Rob started his time here at the time of 50th anniversary of the Marshall Foundation's founding. We are well placed now to ensure that the Foundation continues to do what is necessary to ensure another 50 years of success.

History Associates

Mark Evans has written a series of posts summarizing his impressions of the 2019 Preservation and Archiving Special Interest Group (PASIG) Annual Conference at the History Associates blog. PASIG is dedicated to advancing the practice of digital preservation and archiving. Their annual conference, PASIG 2019, brings together practitioners, industry experts and researchers to share their experiences and develop best practices. Read the posts at https://www.historyassociates.com/resources/blog/.

International Spy Museum

The International Spy Museum is currently closed as we move a lifetime of espionage history and over 7,000 artifacts to a brandnew, purpose-built facility at Washington DC's L'Enfant Plaza, a short walk between the National Mall and The Wharf. When the new Spy Museum opens in May 2019, it will be filled with completely reimagined, immersive, state-of-the-art exhibits that will engage visitors in discovering and participating in the secret world of espionage! The new Museum will offer: Expanded space at 140,000 square feet, RFID technology and interactive stations, rotating special exhibitions, a state-of-the-art theater/lecture hall, increased classroom space, educational programming, and multifunction event space with sweeping views of DC.

Living New Deal

Living New Deal Project Historian Brent McKee recently traveled to Washington, DC, to document the legacy of New Deal public works around the city. Brent's research is laying the groundwork for a forthcoming pocket map and guide to New Deal Washington, DC. The map will span multiple categories of projects: major New Deal public works, notable New Deal murals, walkable sites near the Washington Monument,



CCC work sites in the District, and other prominent sites farther out. You can find more details about Brent's recent trip to Washington, DC, at http://nddaily.blogspot.com/2018/09/the-new-deal-around-dc-washington.html.

In response to the remarkable rise of the Green New Deal to the top of the national political agenda, the Living New Deal has also created a new section of their website to feature proposals and debates on the topic at https://livingnewdeal.org/green-new-deal. Today, as the nation faces critical challenges on three fronts—environmental, political, and economic—the Green New Deal has emerged as a path to lead the nation out of a profound crisis. It represents a major, long-term commitment to national renewal and reconstruction. But if such a program is to succeed, it needs to draw on the key lessons of the original New Deal. This is where the Living New Deal can help. We believe the Living New Deal can provide sound advice to a new generation of national leaders and policy-makers based on our extensive historical research into how the New Deal operated and why it succeeded.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Glenn Research Center is pleased to announce the publishing of our new historic facility website! It can be found at the following link: https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/historic-facilities. Information about Glenn's facilities that have been part of historic mitigation projects is now consolidated into one site. Visitors can learn more about the Altitude Wind Tunnel, the Propulsion Systems Laboratory, the Plum Brook Rocket Systems Area, and the Special Projects Lab. There is also information about the GRC History Office and the Historic Preservation Program. Many thanks go to archivist Bob Arrighi for making this project a success!

National Archives and Records Administration

On November 16, 2018, the National Archives at New York City unveiled a new semi-permanent exhibit, "Be it Remembered: Treaties with Native Nations," transforming the lower level lobby of the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House in lower Manhattan into a new museum space. The "Be It Remembered" exhibit features 11 facsimiles of Native American treaties related to New York and the important history preserved through those documents.

The National Archives and Records Administration has also begun an effort to conserve and digitize 377 native treaties for inclusion in the agency's online catalog. The project will add the treaties and supplemental records to the digital catalog, providing worldwide public access to them for the first time. It is made

possible thanks to funding from an anonymous donor and support from the National Archives Foundation.

Deputy Archivist Debra Steidel Wall has been appointed to the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, and participated in the Commission's first meeting at the Capitol Visitor Center in Washington, on Oct. 29. Created in 2017 through the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission Act, the commission will lead national efforts to educate, and celebrate the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

The National Archives also marked the 50th anniversary of Shirley Chisholm's historic entry into the U.S. House of Representatives with a featured document display and a screening of the 2004 documentary *Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed* on February 14, 2019.

National Capital Planning Commission

The National Capital Planning Commission has issued a year in review presentation for 2018. The report features several interactive graphics illustrating a variety of the Commission's project review activities, outreach efforts, and other ongoing initiatives for the District of Columbia and surrounding areas. See it online at https://www.ncpc.gov/ar2018/.

National Declassification Center

Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero made the following announcement on February 1, 2019: I am pleased to announce the appointment of William P. Fischer as the Director of the National Declassification Center (NDC), effective February 4, 2019. Bill will serve as the second Director of the NDC replacing Sheryl Shenberger, who retired at the beginning of 2018.

For the past 10 years at the Department of State, Fischer has served in a number of leadership positions overseeing information access, declassification, and records management activities. He most recently served as the Deputy Director of the State Department's office responsible for its Federal Records Act, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Privacy Act, and E.O. 13526 (Classified National Security Information) programs. In this capacity, he oversaw program compliance and led major Department projects including declassification reviews under the direction of the National Security Council such as the Argentina Declassification Review and John F. Kennedy Act initiatives. Fischer has also served as State's primary liaison with various NARA organizations, including the NDC and the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO).

Prior to joining the Department of State, Fischer held various positions involving Archival and Records Management activities as a NARA employee from 1998 to 2008. Fischer holds a B.A. in history from the University of Montana, an M.A. in History from Montana State University, and received a Ph.D. in History from the Catholic University of America in 2004. Please join me in welcoming Bill back to the National Archives and in thanking David Mengel for his able leadership of the NDC over the last year.

National Endowment for the Humanities

On December 12, 2018, The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced \$14.8 million in grants to support 253 humanities projects in 44 states, the District of Columbia,

and Puerto Rico. An additional \$47.5 million was awarded to fund 55 state humanities council partners. Many of the projects apply new technologies and digital methods to innovative humanities research and public programs, such as the development of computer-based techniques to read the lost scrolls of the library at Herculaneum, a collection of hitherto undecipherable papyrus scrolls that were carbonized during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE. NEH Digital Projects for the Public grants will support several efforts that employ augmented or virtual reality to simulate immersive encounters with historic sites and events. Funded projects include the design of a virtual-reality game that would let users explore the ancient Pueblo site of Mesa Verde and a multimedia recreation of a 1960 Martin Luther King Jr. speech. Another grant will digitally replicate the acoustics of historic structures, including a legendary Nashville Music Row studio and a 3,000-year-old UNESCO World Heritage Site in Peru, to establish protocols for preserving the aural heritage of culturally significant sites.

On January 31, 2019, the NEH announced it will award more than \$9 million to fifty-five state and jurisdictional humanities councils during the first week of February. These councils provide humanities programming and grants for worthy projects across the nation, particularly for local history and educational activities. "The NEH staff has prioritized supporting our state partners and is working diligently to process these awards," said NEH Chairman Jon Parrish Peede. "Our states are the keepers of the flame of the nation's history." In total, NEH will have provided almost \$18 million to the councils since the beginning of this fiscal year. This new infusion of NEH funding will help humanities councils resume regular operations in the fifty states and U.S. jurisdictions.

National Marine Sanctuaries

This summer, researchers from Monitor National Marine Sanctuary and its partners visited and documented two Outer Banks wrecks that now rest on the ocean floor: the submarine USS Tarpon, and the passenger liner Proteus. While both wrecks are popular dive sites, neither had ever been documented before by maritime archaeologists. Tarpon and Proteus are just two of the several wrecks being considered under a proposal to expand Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. Visit https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/nov18/maritime-archaeologists-document-history-graveyard-of-the-atlantic-shipwrecks.html for more information.

National Park Service

On November 19, 2018, the National Park Service unveiled two temporary waysides interpreting the 1881 assassination of President James A. Garfield. The waysides, located on the National Mall within the historic footprint of the Baltimore and Potomac



Railroad Station, interpret the July 2, 1881, shooting of President Garfield and his lasting contributions as a public servant. The

assassination site is the only one of the four presidential assassination sites not currently identified and interpreted. The effort to interpret the site has been a joint undertaking by National Mall and Memorial Parks and James A. Garfield National Historic Site. Employees at each park along with noted Garfield historians have worked to develop the new interpretive panels. The waysides will be installed on the National Mall just south of the National Gallery of Art's West Building's south entrance, from November 19, 2018, to July 2, 2021.

National Preservation Institute

NPI is pleased to announce that the roster of seminars scheduled for February through November 2019 can now be viewed, along with seminar descriptions, in the 2019 NPI News Release! (https://www.npi.org/NewsRelease2019.pdf) NPI works closely with Cooperating Organizations around the country to bring seminars to as many locations as possible. Spring seminars are scheduled in Anchorage, AK; Atlanta, GA; Austin, TX; Fredericksburg, VA; Honolulu, HI; Minneapolis, MN; Montpelier, VT; Mount Vernon, VA; Norman, OK; Portland, OR; Richmond, VA; Sacramento, CA; and Santa Fe, NM. A calendar of upcoming seminars is always available on the NPI web site (npi.org) by clicking on "Calendar." Click on "Seminars" to view seminars by subject. Click on a specific seminar for a seminar overview, including description, faculty information, participant comments, and scheduled dates and locations. We will be developing our 2020 scheduled in a few months. If you are planning ahead, we can give you an idea about where specific seminars are scheduled by early July. Email NPI (info@npi.org) or call 703.765.0100 with your queries. Additionally, customized training may be arranged to meet specific organizational needs.

National Woman's Party

I'm pleased to announce that we are in the final stages of launching our traveling exhibit in Richmond, Virginia! The venue is set, the design is nearly complete, and we are just weeks away from installation. The exhibit, *Standing Together: Women's Ongoing Fight for Equality*, explores the impact of the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment and the issues still confronting the women's rights movement today. Utilizing compelling images, rarely displayed sashes and banners, political cartoons, and lobbying records, the exhibit encourages visitors to consider the work that remains to achieve full equality, and to better understand the power of their own civic voice.

Newseum

The Freedom Forum—the creator and primary funder of the Newseum and the Freedom Forum Institute—has announced that it has recently entered into an agreement to sell the building in which the Newseum is located to Johns Hopkins University, a premier academic institution. The University will use the building as a new consolidated center for its DC-based graduate programs. The deal remains subject to all necessary regulatory approvals, and the Newseum will remain open to the public in this location through 2019. The sale comes at the conclusion of a 16-month strategic review, announced in August 2017, of the Freedom Forum's funding priorities, including an assessment of the Newseum's unsustainable operating costs. The purpose of the

review was to identify financially responsible solutions for the building through creative partnerships, a partial sale, leaseback scenarios, or other joint ventures. Despite those efforts, the Freedom Forum review made clear that a sale of the facility was the best path forward to enable the organization and its affiliates to continue their First Amendment-based mission. Read more at https://www.freedomforuminstitute.org/2019/01/25/freedom-forum-announces-sale-of-555-pennsylvania-avenue-to-johns-hopkins-university/.

Society of American Archivists

Following new reports of senior White House advisor Ivanka Trump's use of personal email accounts for the conduct of official public business, SAA reiterated its long-standing concern about this practice on November 30. This is an ongoing problem for officials at all levels of government, despite public records laws and regulations that govern the creation and management of official records.

SAA calls on all elected and appointed government officials to be familiar with—and to comply with—all local, state, and federal recordkeeping laws and requirements. Managing email is just one part of a comprehensive government archives and records program that facilitates efficient conduct of government programs and services, ensures effective management of government information, and provides appropriate documentation of government activities. Use of unofficial, non-government email accounts rather than official government accounts violates the transparency and openness that the public requires from its government, makes it difficult to hold public officials accountable, unnecessarily mixes government and personal records, and ultimately jeopardizes the accessibility of the archival record by the American people.

SAA has also recently produced Season 1 of *Archives in Context*, a podcast highlighting archival literature and technologies, and most importantly, the people behind them. Cosponsored by SAA's Publications Board and American Archivist Editorial Board, the podcast offers a new medium for exploring the often moving and important work of memory-keeping. Season 1 features interviews with Kären M. Mason, Cal Lee, Michelle Caswell, Karen Trivette, Anthony Cocciolo, Dominique Luster, and stories from A Finding Aid to My Soul, an open mic event at ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2018. Listen to the full season now via the *Archives in Context* website (*https://archivesincontext.archivists.org*), Google Play, and Spotify (and forthcoming on iTunes).

Trust for the National Mall

There are 128 American Flags on the National Mall in Washington that were at half-mast since George H. W. Bush passed away on November 30, 2018. It was specified that they would be returned to full staff one month later on the 30th of December by sundown. Due to the Government Shutdown, there was no funding to pay for National Park Service employees to respectfully return the flags to full staff. The Trust for the National Mall, a nonprofit partner of the National Park Service that stewards private funding for projects on the National Mall, was called to make a donation to the division to support payment to the employees. The employees worked early in the morning on Sunday, December 30th to return all flags to full staff.



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Federalist Calendar

- **Apr. 4–6, 2019. Organization of American Historians.** Annual Meeting. "The Work of Freedom." Philadelphia, PA. Visit http://www.oah.org/meetings-events/oah19/
- Apr. 10–14, 2019. American Society for Environmental History. Annual Conference. Columbus, OH. Visit https://m.aseh.net/conference-workshops/columbus-ohio
- Apr. 25–26, 2019. Society for History in the Federal Government. Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. Visit http://www.shfg.org/Annual-Meeting
- May 9–12, 2019. Society for Military History. 86th Annual Meeting. "Soldiers and Civilians in the Cauldron of War." Columbus, OH. Visit http://www.smh-hq.org/smh2019/index.html
- **June 20–22, 2019. The Association for Documentary Editing.** Annual Meeting. Princeton, NJ. Visit https://www.documentaryediting.org/wordpress/?page_id=3277
- June 20–22, 2019. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). Annual Meeting. Arlington, VA. Visit https://shafr.org/conferences/annual/2019-annual-meeting
- July 18–21, 2019. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR). 41th Annual Meeting. Cambridge, MA. Visit http://www.shear.org/annual-meeting/
- July 29-Aug. 3, 2019. Society of American Archivists (SAA). Joint Annual Meeting. Austin, TX. Visit https://www2.archivists.org/conference

- **Sep. 19–20, 2019. McMullen Naval History Symposium.** U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD. Visit https://www.usna.edu/History/Symposium/
- Sep. 19–22, 2019. Society for the History of Technology. Annual Meeting. Milan, Italy. Visit https://www.historyoftechnology.org/annual-meeting/
- Oct. 16–19, 2019. Oral History Association. Annual Meeting. "Pathways in the Field: Considerations for those Working In, On, and Around Oral History." Salt Lake City, UT. Visit http://www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/
- Oct. 17–18, 2019. Symposium on Cryptologic History. "From Discovery to Discourse." Laurel, MD. Visit Visit https://www.nsa.gov/about/cryptologic-heritage/center-cryptologic-history/#symposium
- Oct. 24–25, 2019. Managing Scandal in the White House. Symposium. Mississippi State, MS. Visit https://networks.h-net.org/node/73374/announcements/3671097/managing-scandal-white-house-october-24-25-2019
- **Jan. 3–6, 2020. American Historical Association.** 134th Annual Meeting. New York, NY. Visit https://www.historians.org/annual-meeting
- **Mar. 18–21, 2020. National Council on Public History.** Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. Visit http://ncph.org/conference/2020-annual-meeting/