



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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SHFG
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2020 ROGER TRASK AWARD WINNER

Bill Williams

The Society for History in the Federal Government is pleased to award the 2020 Roger Trask Award to Dr. William J. Williams, the Chief of the Center for Cryptologic History (CCH) at the National Security Agency (NSA) from 2002 until 2016. The award is in recognition of Bill's service and leadership within the federal history community, including his tenure on the SHFG Executive Council (2003-2004) and terms as SHFG Vice President (2006-2007) and President (2007-2008).

Bill will deliver the annual Trask Lecture at our meeting during the Awards Ceremony, Saturday, March 14 at 4 p.m.

We look forward to honoring Bill for his service to the federal history community in Shepherdstown!

Processing and Digitizing Presidential Records at the George W. Bush Presidential Library

By Elizabeth Garber

The George W. Bush Presidential Library holds a vast archival records collection that includes approximately 70 million pages of textual materials, 80 terabytes of electronic records, and 1,200 cubic feet of audiovisual holdings in a wide array of formats. These materials were generated by various offices within the White House from January 20, 2001, to January 20, 2009. The Library also houses an artifact collection that consists of gifts received by President George W. Bush and family from around the world—from expensive jewelry from foreign royalty to original art created by the average American.

The Library is one of 14 presidential libraries located around the country that are administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Each library is tasked with interpreting the events of a specific presidency through a museum exhibit while also preserving and providing access to the historical record generated by that administration.

All presidential records housed at the George W. Bush Library are subject to the Presidential Records Act (PRA) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Due to the provisions of these laws, only a portion of the archival collection is available for research at this time. All records must pass through a lengthy review and release process before they can be seen by the public, so material is released as it goes through this complex process. An archivist must read through each document, determine whether or not it is suitable for release,



President George W. Bush and Karen Hughes in the Oval Office on September 14, 2001. NAI 5997284

and act on that decision. Documents that contain information that falls within one of the restrictions of the PRA or the exemptions of the FOIA must be withdrawn or redacted. After this process is completed for a discrete segment of materials, records are approved for release by the former and incumbent president through a process known as notification. A formal description of the records is created and submitted to the liaisons for President Bush as well as the current White House Counsel's Office. During this period of 60 working days, the records can be requested by the former or current President for review. It is during this review that

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The **FEDERALIST**

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

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>.

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of *The Federalist*, the SHFG, or the agencies or organizations where the authors are employed.

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President's Message

Kristin Ahlberg

As I write my final President's Message, our annual meeting is only two weeks away. Hosting a joint meeting with another professional historical society offers a variety of opportunities, from learning new approaches and discussing issues of common concern to fostering new relationships and forging institutional connections. Hosting a joint meeting also involves significantly more planning and collaboration, especially if the meeting is held outside of Washington. I would like to thank Past President Jessie Kratz and the members of our program committee: Awards Chair Mattea Sanders, Vice President Elizabeth Charles, and SHFG member Matt Regan for their work in ensuring that this year's meeting will be a success. Treasurer Mandy Chalou and Executive Council member Rich Hulver have also contributed significantly to managing the many operational aspects of the meeting.

The SHFG leadership team had an ambitious agenda to pursue during our 40th anniversary year. We celebrated our own history and the contributions of our founders and past presidents at last October's Hewlett Lecture. The Society worked to transfer the SHFG archives to a new institutional home at American University, while, at the same time, recognizing SHFG archivist Chas Downs for his extraordinary service. Building upon our relationships with the American Historical Association, Organization of American Historians, National Council on

Public History, and Western History Association, we submitted federal history-focused panels and workshops for the 2020 and 2021 annual meetings of these organizations. The Council continues to explore ways in which the Society can co-sponsor programming with local universities, including Georgetown University, American University, and Shepherd University, as a way of introducing history majors and graduate students to the variety of history careers within the federal government.

All these initiatives must share space with the equally important ongoing administrative and programmatic work of the Society. Once again, I would like to thank the SHFG leadership team and the Executive Council, as well as the editors of our publications and the members of the awards and publications committees, for ensuring SHFG's health and vitality as an organization. Many of our initiatives are still in the early stages; I am extremely confident that our incoming President Elizabeth Charles will advance these initiatives with enthusiasm, unmatched organizational skills, and unwavering commitment to the Society and its members.

Join H-Fed Hist

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<http://www.networks.h-net.org/h-fedhist>

Academic announcements • Book reviews
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Feature Your Project!

Want to spread the word about your work? *The Federalist* newsletter prints information about federal history projects and issues affecting federal history programs.

If you or your organization have news items related to federal history that you would like printed in *The Federalist*, or if you have a press release, feature article, or profile you would like to contribute, email the editor at shfgfederalist@gmail.com.

The Federalist welcomes contributors with information highlighting news of the profession, or who are willing to describe their projects for the SHFG audience!

Editor's Note

How should history inform the public, and by extension public policy? I've been thinking about that question a lot these past few weeks, as I am sure many of you have. Comments from the President on Iran in January sparked international discussions on the importance of cultural heritage sites, and the history of the legal instruments that protect them. Days later, media reportage about an altered photograph in a graphic display at the National Archives touched off widespread debates about how best to maintain the integrity of public record keeping systems, and how public historical exhibitions address potentially offensive subject matters. The Office of Management and Budget approved the sale and closure of the National Archives in Seattle, which spurred urgent conversations about records accessibility issues, particularly as they pertain to indigenous communities in the Pacific Northwest. News that the White House was considering a mandate for federal buildings to reflect "classical" architectural styles created yet another round of controversy, with architects, historians, and preservationists calling for federal architecture to continue to demonstrate a rich diversity of design choices. The SHFG community plays a vital role in informing and contextualizing these debates, and the upcoming Annual Meeting will serve as a timely forum for the discussion of

these and many other issues affecting the field.

The authors of this issue of *The Federalist* represent a diverse variety of historical approaches and disciplines: The Executive Director of the Duke University Center for Firearms Law, **Jacob D. Charles**, highlights the Duke Repository of Historical Gun Laws, an online resource focused on the Second Amendment. **Elizabeth Garber**, an archivist and the digitization lead at the George W. Bush Presidential Library, describes the document digitization program at her institution. In the History Professional feature, **Yancy Mailes** answers questions about his career and his responsibilities as the Director of the Air Force Materiel Command History and Museums Program. The Curator at the National Law Enforcement Museum, **Chelsea Hansen**, discusses the process of curating their exhibit on the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. **Sarah Eilers**, the Manager of Historical Audiovisuals in the History of Medicine Division at the National Library of Medicine, describes the complex process of digitizing electronic media at NLM. Read these stories and more in this issue of *The Federalist*, and don't miss the Making History news items in the last few pages. There is certainly a lot of news happening in the field!

Comments and suggestions are welcome at shfgfederalist@gmail.com or on Twitter [@faithtomfaith](https://twitter.com/faithtomfaith).

2020 SHFG Award Winners

Individual Member Award:

John Sprinkle, *Saving Spaces: Historic Land Conservation in the United States*

History Office/Program Award:

Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) Historical Office, "Foreign Travels of the Secretary of Defense, 1948-2018"

James Madison Prize (Published Article or Essay):

Elliot Young, "Caging Immigrants at McNeil Island Federal Prison, 1880-1940"

Henry Adams Prize (Book):

Glen R. Asner and Stephen J. Garber, *Origins of 21st Century Space Travel*

Excellence In New Media:

Ben Feist, ARES Division NASA Johnson Space Center

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations this year and to all the award committee members for their hard work in reviewing the nominations.

Bill Williams— 2020 Roger Trask Awardee

Bill Williams served as Chief of the Center for Cryptologic History (CCH) at the National Security Agency (NSA), Fort Meade, Maryland, from October 2002 through October 2016, when he retired from government service. He is currently serving as a part-time consultant to CCH as a member of NSA's Standby Active Reserves.

He joined the Society for History in the Federal Government after attending SHFG's Holiday Party at the National Archives in 2002, and has been a member ever since. The historians and archivists he met through SHFG, and in the Intelligence Community, helped him understand the concept of "applied history," and the positive impact a government history program can have on both its agency and the public. He was a member of the Society's Executive Council from 2003 until 2004, and served as SHFG's President from 2007 until 2008.

He was an officer in the United States Air Force for 30 years, serving initially as a radar weapons controller and then as an intelligence analyst. He also had two assignments at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs, where he became a Senior Associate Professor and the History Department's Deputy Head. His military assignments included locations in the United States, Korea and Germany. He served at the Pentagon on the staff of the Secretary of the Air Force, and as the head of the National Military Joint Intelligence Center's 24-hour Alert Center. He retired from the Air Force, as a Colonel, in October 2005.

Through a USAFA-sponsored program, he earned a Ph.D. in History at the University of Washington (Seattle) in 1989, which is where he had earlier received a master's degree in History (1978)



and an M.L.S. in Library Science (1979). He also earned Certification in Archives and Records Management Administration at Western Washington University (Bellingham) in 1979. He graduated magna cum laude as a History Major from Kenyon College (Gambier, Ohio) in 1971.

He has written one book, *The Wilson Administration and the Shipbuilding Crisis of 1917: Steel Ships and Wooden Steamers* (1992) and has published articles on American naval, maritime and aviation history in a variety of scholarly journals.

In 2017 he was presented the National Security Agency's Civilian Meritorious Service Award.

Call for Articles: *Marine Corps History*

Marine Corps University Press (MCUP) publishes the journal *Marine Corps History* on all topics within the long history of the U.S. Marine Corps, including the Civil War, Spanish-American War, Banana Wars, WWI and WWII, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and women and minorities in the military. We are particularly interested in master's and PhD students who are ready to venture into scholarly publishing. *Marine Corps History* is published twice each year, summer and winter.

We are currently accepting article and book review submissions for 2019 (summer and winter issues). The editors are looking for articles that focus on any aspect of the Corps' history, either directly or indirectly, including foreign marines and joint operations.

Marine Corps History is a board-reviewed journal, and submissions should be 4,000–10,000 words long, footnoted and formatted according to Chicago Manual of Style (17th edition). Junior faculty and advanced graduate students are encouraged to submit.

To receive a print copy of the journal, to discuss an article idea or book review, or for more information about author submission guidelines, please contact the managing editor at stephani.miller@usmcu.edu.

“George W. Bush Presidential Library” from page 1

executive privilege can potentially be asserted. If executive privilege is not asserted and the release of the records is approved, the materials are made available locally in the research room and eventually digitized for access from anywhere around the world.

At this time, processing is largely driven by what records are requested via FOIA. Any person can write in and request records as long as the term FOIA is mentioned and there is a reasonable description of the materials desired. Generally, FOIA requests tend to be topical or pertain to records created by certain individuals or offices. As requests are received, archivists perform searches to determine an estimate of the amount of materials that may be responsive. After searching is complete, each request is placed in a processing queue based upon that estimate and what collection area the potentially responsive records fit into (i.e. whether the materials are unclassified, classified, electronic, textual, audiovisual, or a mixture of several types). The queue is processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Some requests take only a few minutes to process, while others can take an entire year or more. Regardless of hands-on processing time, all records must go through the notification process before their release, so every request takes a minimum of three months. In reality, essentially every request takes more than three months due to the high demand for presidential records, the size of the processing queues, and the limited staff available to perform the work. In fact, archivists are still processing some complex requests received on January 20, 2014—the first day that Bush administration records became eligible for FOIA.

NARA is committed to digitizing all of its analog holdings. The agency’s strategic plan for 2018–2022 includes the goal of digitizing 500 million pages and putting them online by 2024. Unfortunately, due to limitations in staffing, every FOIA request processed by Library staff is not digitized once it is released. Instead, requests are scanned when a researcher pays a reproduction fee or when the Library is staffed with volunteers and interns who are trained to complete the work. Actual and anticipated demand for a request is also considered when selecting records for digitization.

Digitization is a lengthy process that requires a lot of attention to detail. A digitized folder should appear almost identical to what is available in the research room to replicate the experience of doing in-person research to the greatest extent possible. Once a box is selected for scanning, the records themselves are analyzed. Are pages torn or fragile? Are documents single or double-sided? The characteristics of the records themselves determine how they will be scanned. The Library uses a high-speed scanner with a document feeder for the vast majority of its records. Any items identified during the records analysis stage as fragile must be copied so that a facsimile can travel through the document feeder in order to avoid damaging original documents.

In addition to considering the physical characteristics of the records, a system is in place for the naming and storage of all the newly created digital files. The Library uses a file-naming convention that links numeric codes to each collection and series within its holdings. The files are housed in digital folders that



Homepage of the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum’s Digital Library at <https://www.georgewbushlibrary.smu.edu/Digital-Library—2>.

mirror the physical organization of the records and are stored on a networked storage drive that is regularly backed up.

Once the scanned images are generated, individual TIFF files are created for each page. Next, a PDF file containing images of all of the pages in one folder is created. That PDF goes through Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to ensure that the file is searchable and accessible. Finally, metadata is collected about every scanned file. Each of these steps is repeated for every folder in a FOIA request.

After a FOIA request is scanned in its entirety, it is placed online for the world to see. The Library puts digitized content online in two places: 1) the National Archives Catalog and 2) the George W. Bush Library Digital Library (located on the Library’s website). Archival staff at the Library upload the files to the Library website and create individual webpages for each request. The National Archives Catalog is maintained by a different office within NARA located at Archives II in College Park, Maryland. All digitized files are transferred to the catalog staff and they utilize the metadata generated by the Library to import the records into the catalog.

While a complex process, the review, release, and digitization of George W. Bush Administration archival holdings allows researchers to study the actions of the White House only a few years after they have occurred. In many countries, records only 10–20 years old cannot be requested or released at all due to restrictive laws. One of the strategic goals of NARA is making access happen and the George W. Bush Library truly exemplifies this with its archival program.

The George W. Bush Presidential Library is located on the campus of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. The Digital Library can be accessed through the Library’s website at www.georgewbushlibrary.smu.edu.

Elizabeth Garber is an archivist and the digitization lead at the George W. Bush Presidential Library. She has a Master of Science in Information Studies (MSIS) from the University of Texas at Austin.

The Duke Repository of Historical Gun Laws: A Resource for Scholars, Litigants, and the Interested Public

By Jacob D. Charles

In the case that launched the modern doctrine of the Second Amendment in 2008, *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the late Justice Antonin Scalia interpreted the Amendment from an originalist perspective. Originalism is a theory of constitutional interpretation that holds that the meaning of the Constitution is, in significant part, determined by how it stood at the time of ratification. Although there are nuances, the main version of the theory holds that a constitutional provision such as the Second Amendment means what the original informed public would have understood it to mean. History, then, is the crux of the originalist enterprise.

As Justice Scalia explained in *Heller*, “[i]n interpreting this text, we are guided by the principle that the Constitution was written to be understood by the voters; its words and phrases were used in their normal and ordinary as distinguished from technical meaning.” He then surveyed historical sources and concluded that the original public meaning of the Second Amendment was that law-abiding citizens have a right to keep and carry guns for purposes of self-defense. He also noted, however, that “[n]othing in our opinion should be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions on the commercial sale of arms.”

History is therefore central to understanding both the scope of the right to keep and bear arms and the scope of permissible gun regulations. Since *Heller*, scholars, advocates, and judges have mined history for insight into how the right to keep and bear arms was understood in 1791, what historical regulations on weapons existed throughout Anglo-American history, and whether historical analogues exist to various forms of modern gun regulations.

This is not an easy task. Some courts and counsel have fallen prey to the temptation to cite historical sources selectively, plucked from their context, and imbued with modern sentiments and understandings. Furthermore, the historical record is broad, deep, and diverse—gun regulation has been a fact of life in the United States since the Founding era, but the laws and ordinances have not traditionally been easily searchable. Unfortunately, that can contribute to the common misconception that gun regulation is a new phenomenon.

To make it easier for anyone to learn more about the history of gun regulation, the Center for Firearms Law at Duke Law School hosts the Repository of Historical Gun Laws, the largest single-site, searchable database of historical gun laws publicly available. The Repository includes laws that range



Repository of Historical Gun Laws

Welcome to the Repository of Historical Gun Laws, a searchable database of gun laws from the medieval age to 1776 in England and from the colonial era to the middle of the twentieth century in the United States. This Repository is intended as a resource for scholars and practitioners interested in historical laws concerning firearms and other similar weapons. Although the Repository seeks to be substantial, it is not comprehensive. Conscientious users of this Repository should supplement their results with further legal and historical research.

Questions or comments about the repository can be sent to the following email: gunlaws@law.duke.edu

The Repository of Historical Gun Laws is the largest single-site, searchable database of historical gun laws publicly available.

from the medieval age to 1776 in England and from the colonial era to the middle of the twentieth century in the United States. This Repository is a dynamic resource that is continually updated as research uncovers more historical regulations. It is intended as a resource for scholars, practitioners, and others interested in historical laws concerning firearms and other similar weapons. Although the number of laws in the Repository is substantial, the database is not comprehensive. Conscientious users of this Repository should supplement their results with further legal and historical research.

The Repository is online at <https://law.duke.edu/gunlaws/>. There are many ways to search the laws in the Repository.

1. **Text.** The text search tool will return results containing any word entered in the search box. This is the equivalent of adding “or” between words.
2. **Topic.** Laws are tagged with a variety of topical headers that are available on a drop-down menu. Selecting a single topic, with no other search restrictions, will return all laws on that topic, along with a brief explanatory note



about the general trend of regulation.

3. **Jurisdiction.** Laws are coded by jurisdiction; multiple jurisdictions can be selected.
4. **Year.** The Repository contains laws from about 605 A.D. until 1934 (the year of the first substantial federal gun regulation). Searches can be limited to a year or range of years.

These search methods can be combined—all of a jurisdiction’s gun regulations within a range of years, for example—and initial results can be further refined.

The Repository is a significant but not comprehensive collection of historical gun regulations. Search results must be interpreted with that limitation in mind. Moreover, because it only includes the text of gun regulations, the Repository does not contain all of the information necessary to measure the significance of those regulations.

Among the most important limitations are:

- Reenactment, revision, and repeal. Legislatures frequently reenact, revise, and repeal laws, and the Repository does not comprehensively reflect these changes. Reasonable effort has been made to obtain and cite the earliest enactment of any given law.
- Court decisions. The Repository does not contain case law. Some of the regulations listed here have been the subject of judicial interpretation or abrogation.
- Enforcement. The Repository does not reflect the degree to which laws were actively enforced, nor does it capture executive actions that may have altered their impact.
- Context and cross-references. Some gun regulations are themselves referenced by other laws, which may provide elaborations of the regulations, or exceptions to them. The Repository does not, and cannot, fully provide the context necessary to accurately interpret a regulation’s significance

The Repository is intended to be a tool for lawyers, scholars, and anyone interested in learning more about the history of gun rights and regulation. Given the limitations of this text-only resource, we urge users to supplement their results with further legal and historical research.

Jacob D. Charles is the Lecturing Fellow & Executive Director of the Center for Firearms Law at the Duke University School of Law.

New Exhibit: Posters for a New Age Inspired by New Deal Art

Opening March 6 at Canessa Gallery in San Francisco, “Art and Activism: From the New Deal to the Green New Deal,” and exhibit of WPA and contemporary posters, connects the Green New Deal to its New Deal roots. As the Creative Action Network notes, “During the Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal employed artists, graphic designers, and printers—many from the San Francisco Bay Area—to produce posters promoting public health, education, national parks, and the arts. Today, in response to the climate crisis, a new generation of activists turns to the power of poster to demand a Green New Deal.” the opening reception is on Friday, March 6. On Friday, March 13, the gallery will host the Living New Deal’s Gray Brechin, speaking about the New Deal, along with Max Slavin of the Creative Action Network. On Friday, March 20, a program featured the Sunrise Movement’s activism for a Green New Deal. Find more details at <https://living-newdeal.org/>.



Living Content: Digitizing Magnetic Media at NLM

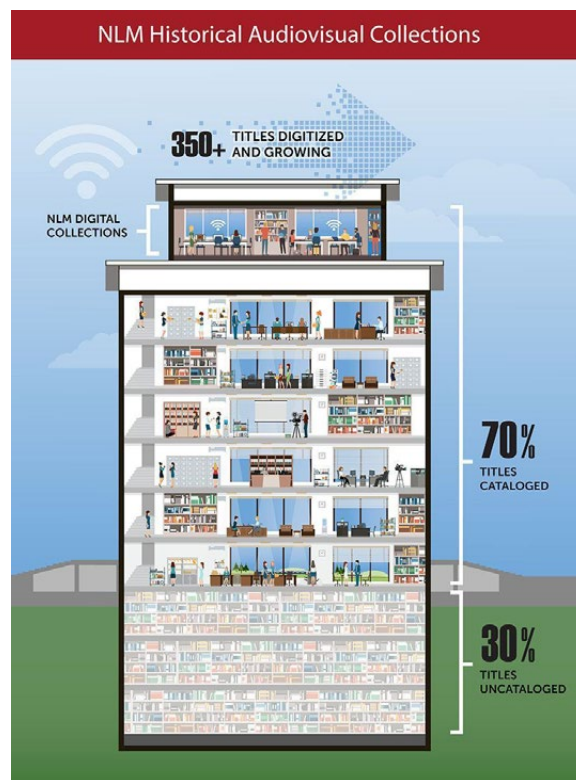
By Sarah Eilers

“A whole collection of medical films, that sounds pretty interesting...and all the material is digitized?” Nearly every archivist has been asked a question of this sort, and most of us would like to be able to say “Sure,” or “Almost all of it.” That’s rarely the answer, though, and most collections are considerably larger than their online presence.

The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has been adding film and video titles to the NLM Digital Collections database for about seven years. The more material NLM is able to place online, the easier it is for people to find and view our rare collection no matter where they are on the globe. Whether it’s a DVD that you can pop in a player derived from a 16mm film that you can’t, or a compressed streaming file that you can view without crashing your machine, generating access copies provides researchers with a format they can use. It was, and is, challenging to design and maintain a workflow using economical in-house equipment that produces good-quality digital access copies with transcription and captioning. We began working with what we had, deploying free or low-cost software to rip digital files from DVDs (our on-site viewing copy format) and format them. (Note: these are digital copies compressed for streaming access. Preservation-level digitization is another job entirely—more about that later.)

Over the last year, in order to produce higher-quality access copies, the audiovisual program at NLM has invested in equipment and software that allows us to digitize directly from our large collection of BetacamSP tapes. BetacamSP (sometimes called BetaSP) is a stable, high-quality analog format by Sony, and was the industry standard for most TV stations and high-end production houses until the late 1990s. It remained common in standard definition video post-production into the 2000s. Many NLM film originals were duplicated to this format years ago. Vendors specializing in film duplication handled those transfers, and the tapes are maintained in a temperature and humidity-controlled environment onsite at NLM.

By digitizing this BetacamSP content, we’re able to produce high-quality access copies of most of our collection titles with a few clicks of the mouse and some watchful waiting. The tape-to-digital transfer station is powered by a Mac Pro and includes a BetacamSP tape player, CRT (cathode ray tube) broadcast monitor, analog-to-digital converter, and a slew of cables and connectors to allow the pieces to talk to one another. Adobe Premiere software digitizes the content according to the specs set by our transfer station designer, Josh Harris, who oversees media preservation for the University of Illinois libraries. Station operators include Trey Bunn and Tina Habash of our Preservation and Collection Management section, and me.



Using the in-house transfer station, we’re digitizing titles new to NLM Digital Collections, providing high-quality copies to researchers, and beginning to replace selected titles already in Digital Collections with higher-resolution versions. The first two titles produced on the new transfer station were *Know for Sure* (new addition) and *To the People of the United States* (a replacement of an older copy). Since then, we’ve also added *Army Nurse* and *Nurse-Patient Interaction*.

Coming this summer: a second in-house transfer station that will digitize Umatic tape originals to preservation specifications. Umatics (also by Sony) were one of the earliest types of videocassettes on the market, and were chiefly used for commercial, educational, and instructional productions. All magnetic tape degrades faster than film, and Umatics are particularly at-risk. The Smithsonian Institution’s Audiovisual Preservation Readiness Assessment 2019 Report ranks them at Level 1/Highest Risk for deterioration, and urges immediate action to transfer and preserve the content. The National Library of Medicine has thousands of Umatic titles, most between 40 and 50 years old. Come summer 2020, we’ll be operating that transfer station nonstop.

Sarah Eilers is the Manager of Historical Audiovisuals in the History of Medicine Division at the National Library of Medicine. This article was originally posted at the National Library of Medicine’s blog Circulating Now on February 27, 2020, at <https://circulatingnow.nlm.nih.gov/2020/02/27/living-content-digitizing-magnetic-media-at-nlm/>.

The History Professional *An Interview with Yancy D. Mailes*

Yancy Mailes is the Director of the Air Force Materiel Command History and Museums Program. He began his professional career in 1987 with the F-117 Stealth Fighter program and became an USAF historian in 1996. Prior to arriving at AFMC, Mailes served as the Director of the Air Force Global Strike Command History and Museums Program. During his career he deployed numerous times, most recently as the historian for the only high altitude reconnaissance wing operating in southwest Asia.



Yancy D. Mailes

Interview by Thomas Faith

What are your current duties at the Air Force Material Command (AFMC)?

I oversee the entire AFMC History and Museums Program that includes establishing and implementing policy while preserving the Command's institutional memory as well as its material heritage. I lead a headquarters team consisting of historians, curators, and archivists who gather critical documents preserved in the command's archive and used to write the command's annual history along with classified/unclassified special studies, books, and briefings. Together, the archive and annual history serve as the corporate memory for this institution. In addition, as a Functional Manager for three distinct careers fields (historians, archivists, and curators), I manage a field program consisting of 14 field historians, 8 museum specialists, and 2 archivists. As part of the Command's heritage activities, I provide oversight for 4 field museums and 21 Historical Property Accounts that include 10k+ artifacts and 278 static aircraft.

When you began your history career as a Wing Historian, what were your duties like then?

The focus of a Wing Historian is much different than my duties today. To begin, I started my historian career as an enlisted man and now I am a civilian. With that said, not much has changed since I traded the uniform for a business suit. I entered the program without a degree, but later earned a bachelor's and master's from Boise State University in Idaho. I love that blue field! At the wing, an historian is focused on documenting the mission of preparing for war. They observe wing leadership as they lead the team through various exercises that test the unit's capability to deploy and win war. While observing is very important, the historian's first duty is to document. The wing historian is required to publish an annual summary, most often classified, of the unit's efforts for that calendar year. Some subjects vary, but others are constant. Historians focus on organizational history along with what is important to the commander. While the historian is focused on the wartime mission, they also lend their talents to documenting base history. The job is unique in that the wing historian must have one foot in the distant past and be able to quickly speak to any past event, including base history, but they must also have one foot firmly grounded in the present so they can document today. I often say, if you don't write history today you will not have heritage 25

years from now and you will not have lessons learned to assist the leadership decision process. Lastly, most folks do not know that the wing historian is a deployable asset. It is mandatory that they travel down range to document the war and bring home the truth. During my career I deployed eight times. My most memorable was in 2003/2004 to Iraq.

You also previously served as Director of the Air Force Global Strike Command History and Museums Program. What did your responsibilities consist of there?

Those duties were similar to my current duties in that I am a manager. The big departure is that here at AFMC I fell in on an existing program that had been in place for several decades. The office, the program, had its processes and those were difficult to change. The most difficult hurdle to clear is transforming the physical archive into a digital cloud-based system. As I will talk to in a moment, I had learned that leadership wanted answers in minutes and hours not days or weeks. Leadership needed trons not paper. If we wanted to be part of the decision process and operationalize history by weaponizing the archive, we needed to take all the goodness trapped in the archive and make it available to a wider audience. In doing so, we would gain additional customers and expand our influence.

At Global Strike we had the opportunity to create what worked best as we resurrected the Strategic Air Command archive and looked to the past to assist the present. Myself and Dr. Bill Harris, now the Deputy Air Force Historian, reflected on our personal experiences to shape our initial thoughts and our infant program, but we had a great resource, the guidance of the SAC historians. The SAC Command Historian, John Bohn, had left us guidebooks on how to "Do" history, but he did it with a staff of 18. We had three, and later five. So we needed to use the lessons of the past, but make it work for a smaller operation. In those early days of Global Strike, we directed historians to write special studies in digestible lengths, and relevant to the command. Bill directed that I quick-turn a special study on the B-2's strike missions during Operation Odyssey Dawn. I penned that piece in less than 45 days, and from that, researchers referenced our lessons learned and the 20+ oral history interviews to shape long-range strike exercise planning. We had proved our worth and as a result, Action Officers and leadership began to ping the History Office asking how SAC had handled particular problems. It

was the perfect storm for an historian. The Air Force had shuttered SAC almost three decades before, and while Global Strike hired folks who had sat alert, they were not leaders in SAC. At most they were junior Captains or possibly senior non-commissioned officers who were not on the staff and who lacked firsthand knowledge of the SAC leadership decision process, regulation transformation, and mostly importantly, how the Air Force sustained a nuclear fleet, both from a hardware and personnel standpoint. The only true references lay in the archive, a resource we rebuilt and managed. Overnight we became a source of knowledge that everyone wanted.

When Bill left in 2012 we had just scratched the surface of how we could change the program by reflecting on the past and how we could build a better customer base. For years, various leaders in our program had sought to gain efficiencies in the production of writing the annual history, what we affectionately called “filling the bucket.” That process took time and in some cases was a self-licking ice cream cone. We asked ourselves, “Who are we serving with this product? How can we buy back white space so we can give presentations, write articles or books? How can we better serve our commander?” With Bill’s departure I became the Command Historian and teamed with my Deputy, Don Koser. Together, he and I built a new team and hired Mr. Shawn Bohannon who helped us build the John Bohn Research Facility. Our vision was to become part of the leadership decision loop by operationalizing history and weaponizing the archive, but we understood we had to balance history and heritage, so we could inspire and educate.

One of the big lessons we learned was that leadership did not want to know what happened, but rather what did not happen. They asked us for the courses of action (COA) that SAC leaders did not choose when bedding down a new weapons system or attempting to exert a new type of deterrence in the 1980s. They wanted to know if leadership lacked money or manpower at the time they made these decisions. Because previous SAC historians had “filled the bucket” we had an abundance of reference material to use. This came in handy as Global Strike planned to field a new bomber, a new ICBM and a new cruise missile as Action Officers needed to reflect on the past. In many cases, because they had not fielded a bomber in 20 years and an ICBM in more than four decades, they did not recreate the wheel, but rather did a simple cut and paste action. Sadly, our greatest success came after the ICBM officers’ drug and cheating scandal went public. Prior to the public announcement, as news quietly circulated about the scandal, Global Strike leadership immediately reached out to myself and Don asking how SAC handle morale problems. We produced various background papers that made their way to the SECAF and CSAF. History had influenced the decision chain! Overnight we became subject matter experts and leadership requested our input on a regular basis. We had weaponized the archive and operationalized history!

How do you approach nuclear deterrence as a historical subject?

The question is not really about deterrence, but more about how we can hold targets at risk and what is the proper force posturing. As

our nation’s first offset strategy, the nuclear arsenal served as the backstop (deterrence) for all conflict. As you know, the mere presence of the weapon was deterrence and stopped nation states from waging world war, but modern conflict, be it the GWOT or the rise of ISIS, had left the weapon sitting in the weapons storage area being replaced by the sneakiness of stealth and lethality of precision guided weapons, or in many cases, the rise of the remotely piloted vehicle. Since 1992, bomber crews had not sat alert, but rather focused their attention on the next deployment where they could drop the latest conventional weapon. When the B-52 crews delivered their last conventional weapon in May 2006, a quiet malaise overtook those two bomb wings as they focused their attention on the nuclear mission. A year later, the accidental transfer took place, the nation then focused its attention on correcting the nuclear atrophy, and as a result, created Air Force Global Strike Command.

Nuclear deterrence is a romantic subject, trapped in the distant past, surrounded by the legend of SAC and the power of an immense industrial complex. The need for the weapon drove the Air Force. It drove technology. It drove the nation. As we moved to the second offset strategy and stealth and precision guided weapons took center stage, nuclear deterrence slowly faded into an obscure part of our history. Of note, as teams from DARPA and small segments of the Air Force introduced ideas like PAVE MOVER and ASSUALT BREAKER, the greater Air Force, the institution that built and controlled the weapon, resisted the new technology wanting to re-invest in the nuclear arsenal, a system that had become bloated. The force posturing was wrong and it stymied our ability to invest in weapons we would employ. If you truly want to deter then you must convince the enemy that you will use the weapon, but you must also have a conventional option to stomp out the brush fires. The power of the weapon is great, and after serving as the SAC Historian for five years, I feel we must keep both the nuclear and conventional missions alive. Today, as in the past, the nuclear genie keeps nation states from duking it out, but our conventional mission fights tonight. My hope is that spaced-based weapons, hypersonics, or other emerging disruptive tech will allow us to forever shutter the nuclear mission. I can only hope.

Is there a particular aspect of your personal or professional experiences that you think most influences your approach to your current position?

Before joining the Air Force History and Museums Program, I served as an enlisted weapons technician working the F-117. I was part of flight test stationed at Plant 42 in Palmdale California, just outside of Edwards Air Force Base. My past helped me understand the function of flight test and how AFMC operated. Several years later I became a staff historian at the Air Armament Center (Eglin AFB, Florida) where I documented weapons testing. I had the opportunity to document the first tests of many of the Air Force’s satellite assisted weapons including the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM). I also deployed and witnessed these weapons being used.

What do you think are some strengths of the AFMC museum program collection?

Our four museums are very focused with the Edwards museum covering all aspects of flight test from X-planes to the F-22. The Eglin museum, located in Florida, is laser focused on weapons development. Hill and Robins Air Force Bases both have fantastic collections and a variety of aircraft to inspire and educate. Each location is staffed by passionate, smart folks who want to highlight the history of airpower and legend of Airmen. We have a great relationship with the National Museum of the United States Air Force and we attempt to partner with them as we train our folks and look at new methods to present material. Visitation is down in most of our museums and we are looking at innovative methods to attract a new customer base. We are looking to the National Park Services and their methods of interpretation to attract and hold the attention of the new generation. We want to introduce new technologies that are interactive and that tell a story.

What considerations do you make when collecting archival materials and objects related to present-day military activities?

Our years of writing the annual history and fielding a variety of requests for information has allowed us to understand what our customers want, most of the time. We field many questions on heraldry and organizational changes, along with deployed operations. Here at AFMC, we control everything from the uniform to nuclear weapons and our historians are documenting all those missions. Many researchers come to AFMC for information on past weapons programs wanting answers to why we fielded the systems, the flight test conditions and results, our relationship with industry, and how we used

those weapons in combat. Our collection methods have not always been thorough, and we are now revising our methodologies to ensure that we fully document the life of weapons system. We have also implanted a process to live history, to witness it if you will, and capture what is important to leadership via oral history interviews. In a world where we create so many documents, many of them are hollow. We are attempting to use cross-referencing to ensure that our primary source collection is rich and valuable to future researchers.

What are some things you hope to accomplish at the AFMC History and Museums Program in the next few years?

We have built a robust Strategic Plan that will allow us to become indispensable to the command and unite the field program. We are building a new customer base along with our archive. We are in the initial stages of bringing the Sara Clark Collection back to Wright Patterson and making it available to the public. In addition, we are expanding our collection efforts and targeting information that we feel will be useful to future researchers. As we unite our field program we will continue to build a central digital portal called HISINT (History Intelligence). This is a one-stop shop for all our products and allows us to work in minutes and hours rather than days and weeks. To do this, we have started to digitize our collections along with those in the field.

Finally, what is your favorite aspect of your duties?

I can't believe they pay me to do this! I love my job and I love history. I had the chance to be the SAC Historian and now I'm living the dream of working with the archive that houses where it all began.

CALL FOR PAPERS: NASA and the Rise of Commercial Space Symposium – March 18-19, 2021

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center History Office and the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) History Department are pleased to invite paper proposals for a two-day symposium in Huntsville, Alabama, exploring the history of commercial space to the present day. Today, the commercial space industry is taking on an increased leadership role and position of innovator in both space access and exploration. This growth of commercial space over the past decades offers the potential for a new paradigm for space exploration—one in which industry transitions from supplier to partner. Still, many questions remain. These questions span from the most seemingly consequential "How will humanity explore the Moon and Mars?" to the most basic, "What is Commercial Space?"

The format of the symposium will be a combination of panel discussions, keynote talks, and group discussion. The intended outcome is a deeper understanding of the relationship between NASA and commercial space as well as an improved definition of commercial space. As part of

this goal, each presenter must also propose a definition of "commercial space" and develop that definition as it relates to their chosen topic. The intention is to publish an anthology of selected papers.

As part of the effort to offer insight to broad constituencies, the organizers envision a range of products emerging from this symposium. The possibility of on-line blogs and other means of communication are being considered. So is a fully referenced edited collection of essays on the origins and development of commercial space activities. Participants are invited to make their presentations available in written form for dissemination.

If you wish to present a paper, please send an abstract of no more than 400 words and a short biography or curriculum vita, including affiliation by November 1, 2020 to Dr. Brian C. Odom at brian.c.odom@nasa.gov or Dr. Stephen P. Waring at warrings@uah.edu. Visit <https://www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/history/nasa-and-the-rise-of-commercial-space-symposium.html>

Curating 9/11 at the National Law Enforcement Museum

By Chelsea Hansen

How do you curate difficult histories? In the museum field, some topics are more challenging to curate than others. This can be for various reasons. Maybe there is a lack of artifacts left behind to help tell the story. Perhaps two groups have opposing views of the same historical event. Or maybe this topic is painful and still impacts those who lived through it.

I was 10 when those airplanes hit the towers. Though I was living on the West Coast and nowhere near the physical attacks, I loved my country and felt scared and confused. My vivid memories from the days following were staring up at a sky empty of commercial planes, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance whenever the clock read 9:11, and greeting my dad after he drove across the country in an RV because he and his coworkers had been stranded in Boston. I know that many people who also lived through September 11, 2001, have their own stories to share.

So how did we create the 9/11 section of History Time Capsules at the National Law Enforcement Museum? Keeping in mind that we were dealing with a difficult topic in recent history, the curatorial team worked to interpret 9/11 in a way that could be relatable and meaningful to a wide range of people. Whether the event happened hundreds of years ago or in the last 10 years, the curatorial process was generally the same.

First, we started with the themes we wanted to highlight. When my predecessor planned out the 9/11 section of the exhibit, she split it into two themes. In the exhibit section, the right side focuses on law enforcement efforts on the day of the attacks. The left side explores the lasting effects that 9/11 had on the law enforcement profession.

Next, we looked at the artifacts that would help us get these themes across. In our collection, we had many artifacts related to September 11, 2001. These include:

- A folded American flag that once covered the body of Port Authority of New York/New Jersey Police Department Captain Kathy Mazza after it was recovered at Ground Zero. Mazza died in the collapse of the North Tower while trying to escort someone to safety.
- A steel beam and a stone fragment, both from the World Trade Center.
- A piece of one of the airplanes.
- The second page of a letter that someone grabbed from Manhattan's dust-filled sky.

There are also many artifacts that are reminders of what

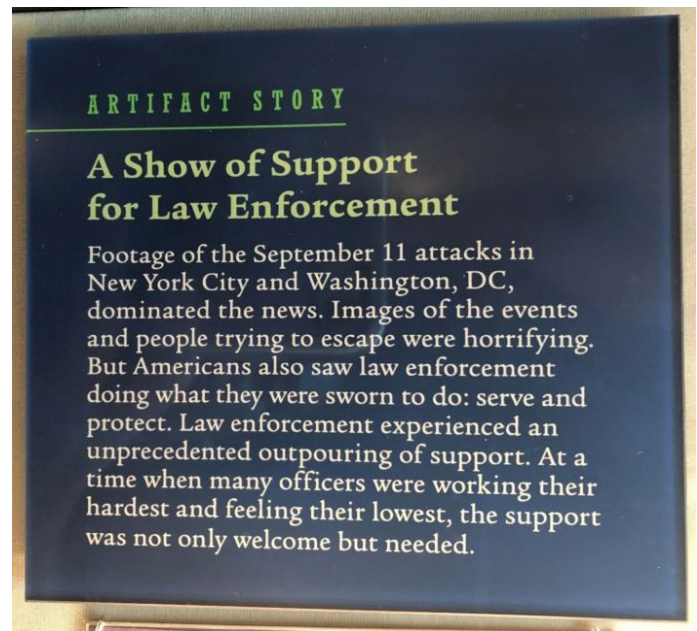


Exhibit text from one of the drawers in the 9/11 section of History Time Capsules.

happened after that day. On display we have:

- The pakol, a traditional Pakistani hat, Osama Bin Laden was wearing when he was killed.
- A hardhat and flashlight used during the recovery efforts at Ground Zero.
- New TSA screening tools: plastic bags and 3oz bottles.
- Thank you letters to the police, written by school children.

The next step was writing the exhibit text. We started with the main label. I think of this as the big idea, or the thesis statement, that ties the whole section together. The main label of the 9/11 section is a bit different than in the other sections of the Museum. While it has some interpretive text, half of the label simply lists the names of the 72 law enforcement professionals who lost their lives that day.

When it comes to exhibit text, bias is not inherently bad. In fact, I would argue you can't have an exhibit completely free of bias. The trick is to be aware and intentional about it. For example, the graphic pictured here was flagged for bias when the text for this exhibit was reviewed by professional historians independent of this organization. And they were right, words like "horrifying," "welcome" and "needed" are not neutral. These are not provable through concrete data points. We chose to keep this language because it helped tell a story that many Americans could relate to.

In any exhibit case, there is a level of curatorial choice. It's the curator's job to reconstruct the events of the past into a narrative that is factual and meaningful. We make decisions concerning what themes to highlight, what specifics to talk about, and what artifacts to include. For a topic like 9/11, there was a lot of content that did not make it into the current

case for lack of space. I like to tell people that the good news about museum exhibits is that no display is permanent. Changes happen regularly, whether it be a rotation of an artifact or a replacement of a graphic. And with these additions and alterations, new aspects of this difficult historical event can be included. However, when it comes to the 9/11 exhibit, it is my hope that visitors to the Museum, especially survivors, feel that it is a good representation of the impact that day and its aftermath had on the history of American law enforcement.

This article was originally posted at the National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum blog on September 11, 2019, at [https://lawenforcementmuseum.org/2019/09/11/](https://lawenforcementmuseum.org/2019/09/11/curating-9-11-at-the-national-law-enforcement-museum/)

curating-9-11-at-the-national-law-enforcement-museum/, and is reprinted here with permission from the National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum. In honor of the 20th Anniversary of 9/11, the Memorial and Museum will open a major exhibition in the summer of 2021 celebrating the lives of the law-enforcement officers from that day and 20 years later.

Chelsea Hansen is the Curator at the National Law Enforcement Museum. She has her Masters in History from American University. Her favorite movie line of all time is "That belongs in a museum!", said by Indiana Jones in the third movie of the franchise.

Department of the Interior Museum Collections Spotlight

Rams horn-style wooden block insulator, circa 1861
Wood, iron, insulating material
U.S. Department of the Interior Museum, INTR 02579

This hardware was used on the first transcontinental telegraph line in the United States. Each wooden block was drilled with a hole and fitted with a metal rod encapsulated in insulating material. The one pictured in the foreground is a rams horn-style insulator, so named because of its shape. The wooden block was then nailed to a pole, with the telegraph wire strung from insulator to insulator the entire length of the line. This section was recovered in the Virginia City Grazing District in the 1930s by an employee of the Department of the Interior's Grazing Service at CCC Camp G-124 in Fallon, Nevada.

The push to complete a transcontinental telegraph occurred in 1860-1861. There was already a regional telegraph in California and a more extensive network throughout the eastern United States but nothing to connect the two. In 1860 Congress offered a \$40,000 subsidy to any company that could span the remaining gap from Fort Kearny in Nebraska to Fort Churchill in Nevada. Western Union rose to the challenge and



beginning on July 4, 1861, had crews working out of Nevada, Salt Lake City, and Nebraska. The line was constructed in four months—comprised of some 27,500 insulator blocks like this one—and opened on October 24. Just two days later, the fabled Pony Express ceased its operations, rendered obsolete by the efficiency of the transcontinental line.

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

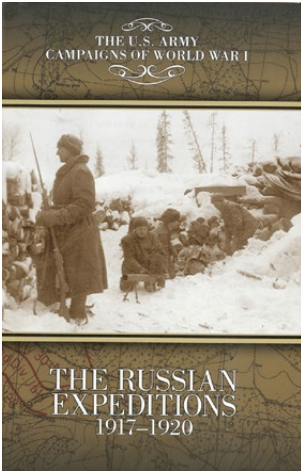
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Your donations also support all activities of the Society, including publication of *The Federalist* newsletter, *Federal History* journal, and stories and news for our website; our annual conference, the Richard G. Hewlett Lecture; and programming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

Recent Publications



The Russian Expeditions: 1917–1920, by John M. House and Daniel P. Curzon, is the latest pamphlet in the Center of Military History series, “The U.S. Army Campaigns of World War I.” It relays the story of the Army’s little-known expeditions in Russia at the end of the First World War. In early 1917, the Allied coalition in the First World War was in crisis as German pressure pushed the Russian Empire to the brink of collapse. Desperate to maintain the Eastern Front against the Central Powers,

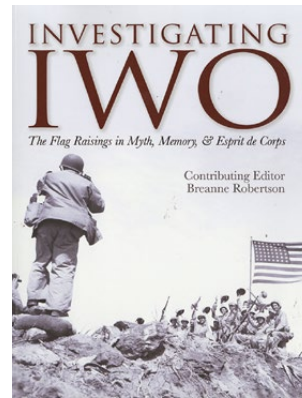
the Allies intervened. However, with their resources committed elsewhere, they needed a source of military forces for deployment to Russia. President Woodrow Wilson agreed to supply American troops for two expeditions: the American North Russia Expeditionary Forces and the American Expeditionary Forces–Siberia. Unfortunately, there was no specific or long-term objective in Russia. Without a clear mission or tangible achievements, the expeditions eventually faded into the background.

Col. (USA, Retired) John M. House retired from the Army in 2001 after spending twenty-six years in uniform. Since retirement he has worked as a consultant and an Army civilian employee. Colonel House earned a Ph.D. in business with a major in public administration from Northcentral University. His works include *Why War? Why an Army?* and *Wolfhounds and Polar Bears: The American Expeditionary Force in Siberia, 1918–1920*.

Daniel P. Curzon is a Ph.D. student in history at Ohio State University. He earned his bachelor’s degree from St. Joseph’s University in 2010 and his master’s degree from Ohio State in 2014. His dissertation examines the shifting geostrategic relationship among Great Britain, Japan, and the United States around the Pacific Rim between 1900 and 1920. From August 2018 to July 2019 he was a graduate research assistant at the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

The Center of Military History (CMH) provides the United States Army, from senior civilian and military leaders to individual soldiers, with an awareness of history. The purposes are to educate and inform. Other military services, policymakers, government agencies, and the public at large also benefit from the Center’s history program. To those ends, CMH produces publications on the history of the United States Army for worldwide distribution, administers the Army’s far-ranging field history operations, and manages the Army’s museums both stateside and abroad. CMH publishes books, monographs, pamphlets, CD-ROMs, historical map posters, and the professional bulletin *Army History*. For more about the Center, go to www.history.army.mil; the home page also provides a link to CMH’s online book catalog.

Many CMH titles are available to the general public from the Government Publishing Office (GPO). To check GPO prices and availability, go to GPO’s Online Bookstore at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov>, or call (202) 512-1800 or toll-free 1-866-512-1800.



Investigating Iwo: The Flag Raisings in Myth, Memory, & Esprit de Corps. No matter your age, you probably know about or have seen the iconic photograph of the American flag being raised by Marines on Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima, on 23 February 1945 taken by Associated Press photographer Joseph Rosenthal. Behind the scenes, this photograph had been the subject of popular interest and scholarly debate.

Perhaps you’ve visited or live near Washington D.C., and aware that this memorial statue is located in Arlington, VA. The historical significance of the magnificent bronze replica of that moment in U.S. military history has become the most important symbol of the Marine Corps (USMC).

The first chapter of this resource details the Marine Corps role and participation in the 36-day battle. Subsequent chapters begin to explore the timeframe and facts around the photograph, along with analysis to support correction of the record.

Years later came a fascinating change in documented American military history!

An investigation occurred in years 2016-2019 to evaluate and correct the record detailing the actual individuals that raised the American flag. This investigative effort was supported by Marine Corps Commandant, General Robert B. Neller, with new research and efforts by amateur historians to identify the Marines who raised the American flag.

Investigating Iwo: The Flag Raisings in Myth, Memory, & Esprit de Corps contains fourteen chapters that evaluate the complex history and meaning of an event that many Americans have about the Marine Corps and World War II. The text provides historical information about World War II, especially the Marines’ efforts on Mount Suribachi and the Marines raising of the American flag. It also provides background to many aspects of the investigation, such as:

- Timeframes that the American flag was supplied to the Marines during World War II
- Timeframes of Joe Rosenthal’s photograph—First or Second Flag Raising Dispute
- Remembering the First Flag Raisers
- Combat Photography Analysis
- Oral Histories
- Huly Panel and the Second Flag Raising

- Personal Reflections about the Iwo Jima Memorial
- And More

The story is enhanced by the many photographs, maps, and diagrams depicting the conditions facing the Marines as they landed on the beaches and fought their way tooth and nail to the top of Mount Suribachi and ultimate victory as well as official artifacts reviewed by the Huly Panel members,

National Archives and Records Administration, and Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel to ensure a thorough investigation. *Investigating Iwo: The Flag Raisings in Myth, Memory, & Esprit de Corps* is available for purchase at <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/investigating-iwo-flag-raisings-myth-memory-esprit-de-corps>.

Making History

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

President Donald J. Trump announced his intent to appoint a new expert member to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). He intends to nominate Jay D. Vogt, South Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer, to replace Expert Member Dorothy Lippert. Vogt is director of the South Dakota State Historical Society and State Historic Preservation Officer. A South Dakota native, Vogt is a past president of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) 2005-2009, and as such, represented NCSHPO on the ACHP. While president of NCSHPO, he also served on several national task forces on various historic preservation issues. Vogt is active in the American Association for State and Local History. He and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Pierre, South Dakota, and have three grown sons, Gabriel, Joshua, and Zachary. The National Historic Preservation Act provides that appointed expert and public members shall serve for a term of four years and under that law, may not serve more than two terms.

American Historical Association

On January 19, the AHA sent a letter to the Archivist of the United States objecting to the alteration of a photograph on exhibition and praising NARA staff for acknowledging this serious lapse in judgment. You can read the full letter, and the response from the Archivist of the United States, at <https://www.historians.org/news-and-advocacy/aha-advocacy/letter-to-national-archives-and-records-administration-regarding-alteration-of-photograph>.

Center for Land Use Interpretation

The Winter 2020 edition of the Center for Land Use Interpretation's newsletter is now available! It features articles on the Continental Divide, Golden Spike National Historic Site, and Voice of America. Read it online or subscribe to our print mailing list at www.clui.org.

Council on Library and Information Resources

CLIR launched its first podcast, *Material Memory*. In theme-based seasons, *Material Memory* explores the effects of our changing environment—from digital technologies to the climate crisis—on our ability to access the record of our shared humanity, and the critical role that libraries, archives, museums, and other public institutions play in keeping cultural memory alive. Season One celebrates the UN-designated Year of Indigenous Languages. In each of six episodes, host Joy Banks speaks with people involved in the work of restoring audio and audiovisual recordings of indigenous languages and their sometimes

Herculean efforts to make these recordings accessible to the communities they represent. Season Two, to be released in spring 2020, will explore the wicked problem of ensuring that born-digital material remains accessible for future generations. Season Three, to be released in summer 2020, will look at the many ways in which the climate crisis is posing new risks to the survival of our human record. *Material Memory* is available via Apple Podcasts, Overcast, Pod.link, and Spotify (postings to Google Podcast are delayed). We encourage you to subscribe, rate, and review. You can also visit our podcast website, material-memory.clir.org, for show notes, links to relevant material, interviewee bios, and a full transcript of each episode.

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced December 6, 2019, it has identified 250 unaccounted-for service members from the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. The identifications have come from ongoing projects to identify Pearl Harbor Unknowns from USS Oklahoma, USS West Virginia, and USS California. All of the service members had been buried as Unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, called the Punchbowl, in Honolulu. For more information visit <https://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/2033698/update-on-pearl-harbor-identifications/>.

Department of State

The Department of State released the newly digitized microfiche supplement to *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1961–1963, Volumes VII, VIII, IX, Arms Control; National Security Policy; Foreign Economic Policy*. From 1993 to 1998, the Foreign Relations series published 13 microfiche supplements that included images of additional documents expanding upon issues addressed in corresponding print volumes in the Eisenhower and Kennedy subseries, which could not be printed due to space limitations. As an addition to the Office of the Historian's digital archive of the entire Foreign Relations back catalog, the Office is digitizing the text from the microfiche images of these supplements and enriching it to create a full text searchable digital edition and ebooks. The images from this microfiche supplement were made available on the Office of the Historian website in 2013 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, but that preview edition was not full text searchable or available to screen readers. Today's release replaces the preview edition and marks the completion of the digitization of this volume. The volume is available online and as free ebooks on the Office of the Historian website at <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1961-63v07-09mSupp>.

Historical Research Associates, Inc.

On behalf of Historical Research Associates, Inc., President/CEO Emily Greenwald sent a letter to the OMB to oppose the closure of the National Archives and Records Administration facility in Seattle. “This facility is a vital resource not just to our company, but to other historians, scholars, genealogists, area tribes, and anyone interested in the history of the greater Pacific Northwest.” Read the full letter at <http://hrassoc.com/presidentceo-emily-greenwald-opposes-closure-of-nara-seattle/>.

Holocaust Memorial Museum

As hate-fueled violence dominated the news in recent months, teachers and others sought help from the Museum. What is anti-semitism? How does it relate to the Holocaust? Are there ways we can prevent youth from being susceptible to hateful messages? The Museum launched a new web page and lesson plan to help answer these questions. Access it at <https://www.ushmm.org/teach/teaching-materials/antisemitism-racism>.

The Museum has also partnered with the American Library Association to tour a traveling version of Americans and the Holocaust, which is also available online at <https://exhibitions.ushmm.org/americans-and-the-holocaust>. Beginning in March, 50 public and university libraries will display the exhibition that examines the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans’ responses to Nazism, war, and genocide.

Library of Congress

The new book, *Rosa Parks: In Her Own Words*, from the Library of Congress reveals the civil rights icon, Rosa Parks, for the first time in print through her private manuscripts and handwritten notes. The publication with University of Georgia Press is a companion to the new exhibition of the same title, *Rosa Parks: In Her Own Words*. For years, Parks’ personal papers were not available to the public. Her personal writings, reflections, photographs, records and memorabilia were placed on loan with the Library in 2014 and became a permanent gift in 2016 through the generosity of the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. The new book, written by Susan Reyburn of the Library of Congress, explores a variety of objects from the Rosa Parks Collection that bring to light Parks’ inner thoughts and struggles throughout her life and activism. At the height of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955 and 1956, Parks was both pilloried and celebrated—and found catharsis in her writing. The new 96-page book features more than 80 color and black and white images from the Parks Collection. It is available in paperback (\$16.95) from the Library of Congress Shop, 10 First St. S.E., Washington, D.C., <https://library-of-congress-shop.myshopify.com/> and from book retailers worldwide. The exhibition, *Rosa Parks: In Her Own Words*, opened Dec. 5 and will be on view through summer 2020.

A major gift by philanthropist David Rubenstein will help fund a project to reimagine and enhance the visitor experience for the nearly 2 million people who visit the Library of Congress’ Thomas Jefferson Building each year. The goal is to better connect visitors with history and provide better access to the unparalleled collections held by the national library. Rubenstein, the chairman of the Library’s James Madison Council and co-executive chairman of The Carlyle Group, will make a lead gift of \$10

million to support the visitor experience project. Rubenstein’s gift will build on the significant public investment Congress has made in the Library’s infrastructure. It will support the strategic plan set by Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden to make the Library more user centered for Congress, creators and learners of all ages.

National Archives and Records Administration

The public now has access to previously unavailable information concerning former merchant mariners and their maritime service through Merchant Marine Licensing Files, made available by the National Archives at St. Louis. The public can access these records in two ways: through a request made via an offsite reference request (with reproduction provided for a fee), or via onsite viewing at the National Archives at St. Louis Research Room. The collection opened to the public on December 2, 2019.

In light of the public interest and ongoing debate about the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) requested guidance from the Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Counsel on legal issues regarding ratification of the ERA. These issues are currently presented in a lawsuit filed by the states of Alabama, Louisiana, and South Dakota against the Archivist of the United States. NARA does not intend to take any action regarding the ERA until, at a minimum, it receives the guidance it previously requested and in no event before February 15, 2020.

On January 18, 2020, NARA issued an apology after the alteration of a photograph in a promotional graphic at the National Archives in Washington, DC, was reported in the media. It read: We made a mistake. As the National Archives of the United States, we are and have always been completely committed to preserving our archival holdings, without alteration. In an elevator lobby promotional display for our current exhibit on the 19th Amendment, we obscured some words on protest signs in a photo of the 2017 Women’s March. This photo is not an archival record held by the National Archives, but one we licensed to use as a promotional graphic. Nonetheless, we were wrong to alter the image. We have removed the current display and will replace it as soon as possible with one that uses the unaltered image. We apologize, and will immediately start a thorough review of our exhibit policies and procedures so that this does not happen again.

The NARA facility in Seattle, WA, has been approved for eventual closure and sale. The facility was recommended for sale by the Public Buildings Reform Board (PBRB) and approved for sale by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) through the authorities and process established in the Federal Asset Sales and Transfer Act of 2016, as amended (FASTA). A specific date has not been set for the closure of our Seattle facility, and we are not taking any immediate actions that will impact our customers. We expect the entire process of sale to take approximately 18 months and we have requested to stay in the building for an additional three years following the sale. We will continue to offer all services and maintain our current operating hours for the immediate future. We will communicate with our customers and stakeholder organizations when we have more information and as we develop our plans. We will also seek to include input from our stakeholders in order to inform our plans and decisions.

National Coalition for History

The National Coalition for History (NCH) sent a letter to Archivist of the United States David Ferriero criticizing the use of a doctored photo of the 2017 Women's March on Washington in the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) exhibition, *Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote*. As first reported in the *Washington Post*, the photo was altered to blur marcher's signs criticizing President Trump. Signs including references to female anatomy were also blurred. In response to overwhelming public criticism, NARA quickly reversed course and issued an apology. The National Archives has removed the photo and is replacing it with the original. NCH's letter urged NARA to review its policies and procedures that allowed this incident to occur and to take the necessary steps to ensure this does not reoccur. It can be read at <http://historycoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/FINAL-NCH-Letter-to-David-Ferriero-re-Photograph.pdf>.

NCH also sent a letter to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) opposing the sale of the National Archives and Records Administration's records facility in Seattle, Washington. NCH urged OMB to reopen the review process since no opportunity was provided for public comment before the decision to sell the property was made. Read the full letter at <http://historycoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/FINAL-NCH-Letter-to-OMB-on-NARA-Seattle-02-05-20.pdf>.

National Declassification Center

The organization responsible for advancing the declassification and public release of historically valuable permanent Federal records, while also maintaining national security, celebrated its 10-year anniversary. The National



Archives and Records Administration's National Declassification Center (NDC) hosted a ceremony at the National Archives at College Park on January 23, 2020, during which they publicly thanked partner agencies, NDC staff, and their National Archives colleagues who help them accomplish NARA's mission.

On January 3, 2020, the NDC released a listing of 206 entries that completed declassification processing between October 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019. These records are now available for researcher requests. This release consists of textual and special media records from military and civilian agencies as well as the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum. The FY2020-Q1 Release List is available to view or download in PDF and Excel formats at <https://declassification.blogs.archives.gov/2020/01/14/new-records-released-2020-first-quarter-release-list/>.

Highlights from the released records include:

- Bureau of Ships, Preliminary Design History and Data Files of Ships, 1909-1966
- Bureau of Ships, Ship Records Relating to Mine Warfare, Radiological Defense, and Counter-Measures, 1940-1970
- Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Secret Naval Intelligence Reports

- Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Operational Archives Publications and Other Records Regarding World War II and the Korean War
- Department of State, Records Relating to the U.S.-Canada International Joint Commission
- Bureau of Aeronautics, Reports Relating to Nuclear Energy
- Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, Classified Files Maintained by Robert Strausz-Hupe, Ambassador to Ceylon, Belgium, Sweden, and NATO, 1970-1977
- Office of the Chief of Ordnance, Joint Army-Navy-Air Force (JANAF) Project Files
- Atomic Energy Commission, Decimal Correspondence Relating to the X-10 Reactor Plant
- Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, White House Tapes: Sound Recordings of Meetings and Telephone Conversations of the Nixon Administration (February 16, 1971-July 18, 1973)
- Department of the Navy, Hardtack Eniwetok (Motion Picture)
- Department of the Navy, Operation Sailor Hat (Motion Picture)
- Department of the Navy, Polaris Weapons Systems Development, 1959 (Motion Picture)

To request access to the newly released records or to order copies, please contact Archives 2 Reference at 301-837-3510 or archives2reference@nara.gov. For Nixon Tapes, please contact the Nixon Library at 714-983-9120 or nixonreference@nara.gov. Please note that some series may contain other restrictions such as privacy or law enforcement and may require screening or a FOIA request prior to access. When making a request, please cite the Record Group/Collection Identifier, HMS Entry, and Series Title.

National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced \$30.9 million in grants to support 188 humanities projects in 45 states and the District of Columbia. NEH Chairman Jon Parrish Peede announced the latest grants on January 14, 2020, at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico, which will receive a matching grant of up to \$750,000 to create a new museum campus, including the construction of a new exhibition building to showcase the largest collection of O'Keeffe's work in the world. It is one of 32 NEH Challenge grants that leverage federal dollars to spur increased private investment in our nation's libraries, museums, and cultural centers to ensure greater access to cultural and educational resources for all Americans. To read the full press release, and access a list of all grant award-ees by geographic location, visit <https://www.neh.gov/news/neh-announces-309-million-188-humanities-projects-nationwide>.

National Historical Publications and Records Commission

Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero awarded 29 grants totaling \$2,585,796 to projects in 22 states and the District of Columbia. The National Archives grants program was carried out with the advice and recommendations of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission at its November meeting. Publishing grants will go to nine publishing projects:

the papers of John Adams and the Adams Family, James Madison, Eleanor Roosevelt, Presidential Recordings, Clarence Mitchell, Jr., Civil War Governors of Kentucky, the John Dickinson Writing Project, and the Documentary History of the Ratification of the U.S. Constitution and Adoption of the Bill of Rights. A new project to publish the Correspondence of Presidents Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore was also funded. A complete list of grants is at <http://www.archives.gov/nhprc/awards/awards-11-19>.

National Security Archive

The National Security Archive, in conjunction with our partners at the scholarly publisher ProQuest, has published a new set of documents offering an unprecedented look into United States policy towards Iran from the Carter administration to the Obama years. The extensive collection, *U.S. Policy toward Iran: From the Revolution to the Nuclear Accord, 1978-2015*, covers nearly four decades of a highly volatile relationship that continues to cause tremors in world politics. The extensive breadth and depth of the set encompasses all major events of importance, such as Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's flight from Iran during the revolution which ultimately led to the 444-day hostage crisis, the Iran-Iraq war of 1980-1988 that continues to shape the narrative of Iran's rulers, Iran's explosive internal political scene during the 1990s, and the more recent post 9-11 landscape where terrorism and the nuclear issue have been the main drivers of global concern. The set concludes by focusing on the landmark—albeit short-lived—JCPOA, the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and the so-called P5+1. This wide variety of mostly never-before-seen material considers the full range of issues that have divided the two countries since the revolution. Read more about it at <https://unredacted.com/2019/12/12/new-digital-national-security-archive-document-collection-covers-u-s-policy-toward-iran-from-1978-2015/>.

National Trust for Historical Preservation

This year, as the United States celebrates the 100th anniversary of women earning the right to vote, we want to tell the full history—to uncover and uplift women across the centuries whose vision, passion, and determination have shaped the country we are today. Our goal: discover 1,000 places connected to women's history and elevate their stories for everyone to learn and celebrate. Have a place you'd like to share? Submit a photo and a short description, and see the database of sites already submitted, at <https://savingplaces.org/where-women-made-history>.



The National Trust for Historical Preservation also issued a statement opposing a White House plan, reported by several media sources, “that would effectively mandate the use of ‘traditional’ and ‘classical’ architectural styles for future federal buildings and even for renovation projects at existing federal buildings.” The statement explained that “while the National

Trust values—and protects—traditional and classical buildings throughout the country, to censor and stifle the full record of American architecture by requiring federal buildings to be designed, and even altered, to comply with a narrow list of styles determined by the federal government is inconsistent with the values of historic preservation.” Read the full statement at <https://savingplaces.org/press-center/media-resources/national-trust-opposes-proposed-order-mandating-traditional-architectural-styles>.

Semiquincentennial Commission

At a meeting with Vice President Mike Pence, the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission submitted a wide-ranging report to guide the nation in observing the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026. The Commission envisions a monumental national initiative to engage all Americans in the largest and most inclusive observance in our nation's history. Read the report at http://america250.org/pdf/America250_Report_to_President_12-31-2019_S.pdf.

Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian announced the launch of Smithsonian Open Access, an initiative that removes Smithsonian copyright restrictions from about 2.8 million of its digital collection images and nearly two centuries of data. This means that people everywhere can now download, transform and share this open access content for any purpose, for free, without further permission from the Smithsonian. Among museums and cultural institutions, this is the largest and most interdisciplinary open access program to date. The Smithsonian will continue to add items on an ongoing basis, with more than 3 million images designated as open access by late 2020. Visit at <http://www.si.edu/openaccess>.

Society of American Archivists

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) expressed “grave concerns about President Donald Trump's suggestion that Iranian cultural heritage sites could be targeted as part of a military strike.” SAA's statement explained that “the targeting of cultural heritage sites is a crime under the law of armed conflict, including the 1949 Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War and the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property.” Read the full statement at <https://www2.archivists.org/news/2020/saa-statement-on-targeting-of-cultural-heritage-sites-for-destruction>.

The Society of American Archivists, together with the Council of State Archivists, issued a joint memorandum to the Office of Management and Budget on January 30, 2020, to oppose the sale of the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA's) building in Seattle, Washington. SAA and CoSA join the Congressional delegations of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington in opposing the closure of NARA's Seattle location. The memo states, “We strongly recommend that the decision to close the facility be rescinded and that the recommendation [of the Federal Public Buildings Reform Board] be studied further, including asking for input from stakeholders and the public.” Read the CoSA/SAA memorandum at http://files.archivists.org/news/Joint-Statement-on-NARA-Seattle%20Closure_013020.pdf.

SAA also expressed “serious concerns” regarding NARA’s alteration of a photograph displayed as part of the exhibit *Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote*. Read it at <https://www2.archivists.org/news/2020/saa-statement-nara-exhibit-on-2017-womens-march-in-washington-dc>.

Society of Architectural Historians

The Society of Architectural Historians drafted a letter to President Donald Trump in opposition to the proposed Executive Order “Making Federal Buildings Beautiful Again.” The Society’s letter, which was co-signed by several other historical organizations, explains “that most significant public architecture in the United States has resulted from the intersection of monumentality, permanence, and aesthetic significance and the specific local demands of site and community.” The signatories assert “that the dictation of style—any style—is not the path to excellence in civic architecture.” Read the full letter at <https://www.sah.org/about-sah/news/sah-news/news-detail/2020/02/06/society-of-architectural-historians-letter-in-opposition-to-proposed-executive-order-making-federal-buildings-beautiful-again>.

United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization

The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, received Ahmad Jalali, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on January 6, 2020, and discussed tensions in the Middle East with particular regard to heritage and culture. The Director-General recalled the provisions of the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, two legal instruments that have been ratified by both the United States and Iran. The 1972 Convention stipulates, inter alia, that each State Party “undertakes not to take any deliberate measures which might damage directly or indirectly the cultural and natural heritage [...] situated on the territory of other States Parties to this Convention.” The Director-General also recalled the terms of United Nations

Security Council Resolution 2347 adopted unanimously in 2017, which condemns acts of destruction of cultural heritage. Finally, Ms Azoulay stressed the universality of cultural and natural heritage as vectors of peace and dialogue between peoples, which the international community has a duty to protect and preserve for future generations.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

The Central Intelligence Agency released excerpts from over 100 National Intelligence Dailies—or NIDs—relating to the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. The documents are accessible on the Wilson Center’s Digital Archive, (<http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collection/633/cia-reports-on-the-collapse-of-communism-in-europe>) as well as on the CIA’s Electronic Reading Room (<https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/collection/collapse-communism-eastern-europe-30-year-legacy>). The National Intelligence Daily was the CIA’s principal form of intelligence analysis at the time. The top-secret reports featured pithy summaries of, and commentary on, the fast moving events in Eastern Europe in 1989-1990. The NIDs enabled policymakers to get a quick sense of what was happening in states such as Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Yugoslavia.

The CIA did not declassify all portions of the NIDs for security reasons. Other redacted portions of the documents feature the notation “NR record” or “non-responsive,” meaning that the information is unrelated to the events in Eastern Europe. The National Intelligence Dailies were released by the CIA to coincide with a December 10, 2019, event co-organized by the Agency’s Office of Public Affairs and the Wilson Center’s History and Public Policy Program.

The event, “The Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe: A 30-Year Legacy,” featured a keynote address by the Polish Minister Coordinator for Special Services, Mariusz Kaminski. A recorded webcast is available on demand at <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/the-collapse-communism-eastern-europe-30-year-legacy>.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Federal History

Federal History, journal of the Society for History in the Federal Government, seeks submissions for its April 2021 issue.

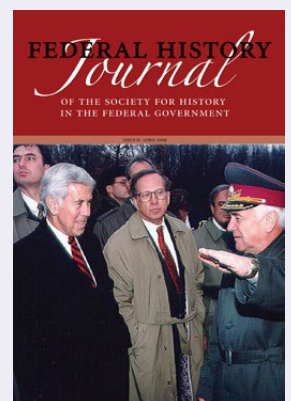
The journal promotes an interdisciplinary approach in its efforts to advance knowledge of the history of the federal government as well as of the professionals who produce historical work in government offices. It features scholarship on all aspects of the history and operations of the U.S. federal government, and of critical historical interactions between American society and the U.S. government, including the U.S. military, 1776 to the present.

It also publishes articles investigating contemporary issues and challenges in federal history work, including the areas of institutional history, interpretive work, museum work,

records management, oral history, digital history, education, and library science. The journal highlights the research of historians working in or for federal agencies, in academia, and as independent scholars.

Federal History is an annual, peer-reviewed academic journal published both in print and online. It is indexed by Ebscohost. Read current and past issues at <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/page-18340>, and submission guidelines at <http://shfg.wildapricot.org/Submission-Guidelines>.

Send a draft and CV to the editors by Aug. 20, 2020, or earlier, at federalhistory@gmail.com for prompt consideration.





The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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Federalist Calendar

Mar. 12–14, 2020. Missouri Valley History Conference. 63rd Annual Conference. “Constitutionalism & the American Presidency.” Omaha, NE

Mar. 13–14, 2020. Society for History in Federal Government. Annual Meeting. “Stories from the Heart of Government: Politics and History.” Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education. Shepherdstown, WV. Visit <http://www.shfg.org/Annual-Meeting>

Mar. 18–21, 2020. National Council on Public History. Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. Visit <http://ncph.org/conference/2020-annual-meeting/>

Mar. 22–24, 2020. Veteran Studies Association. 5th Veterans in Society Conference. “Veteran Identity, Advocacy, and Representation.” St. Louis, MO. Visit <https://www.veteranology.org/conference>

Mar. 25–29, 2020. American Society for Environmental History. Annual Conference. Ottawa, Canada. Visit <https://m.aseh.net/conference-workshops/2020-conference-ottawa-canada>

Apr. 2–5, 2020. Organization of American Historians. Annual Meeting. “(In)Equalities.” Washington, DC. Visit <http://www.oah.org/meetings-events/oah20/>

Apr. 30–May 3, 2020. Society for Military History. 87th Annual Meeting. “Policy by Other Means.” Arlington, VA. Visit <http://www.smh-hq.org/smh2020/index.html>

June 18–20, 2020. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. Visit <https://www.shafr.org/conferences/annual/shafr-2020-annual-meeting>

June 25–27, 2020. Association for Documentary Editing. Annual Meeting. Dickinson, ND. Visit https://www.documentaryediting.org/wordpress/?page_id=3277

July 16–19, 2020. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR). 42nd Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. Visit <http://www.shear.org/annual-meeting/>

Aug. 2–8, 2020. Society of American Archivists (SAA). Joint Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. Visit <https://www2.archivists.org/conference>

Oct. 7–11, 2020. Society for the History of Technology. Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. Visit <https://www.historyoftechnology.org/annual-meeting/>

Oct. 21–24, 2020. Oral History Association. Annual Meeting. “One Hundred Years of Struggle: The Quest for Democracy.” Baltimore, MD. Visit <http://www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/>