



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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Spring 2022

SHFG
www.shfg.org

SAVE THE DATE SHFG ANNUAL MEETING

“The Resiliency of Institutions”

The Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG) will hold its annual meeting on June 2–3, 2022, at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Research at Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV.

Please see www.shfg.org for more information and direct any questions to the Program Committee at: shfg.primary@gmail.com



Of Service and Thanks: Collecting After January 6

By Frank Blazich Jr.

Like many around the world, I spent the afternoon of January 6, 2021, watching the news and absorbing the chaotic events unfolding at the U.S. Capitol. On January 7, I spent several hours surveying the National Mall, collecting abandoned objects that I hoped would one day offer some insight into the political turmoil that had shaken the nation’s capital. Though important, the array of material that I collected from the National Mall reflected, at best, only one part of a larger story. (Notably, the artifacts acquired on January 7 were discarded by their users and we do not presently know who created or used the items.) Thankfully, in the months that followed, the National Museum of American History was presented with opportunities to collect items that document what happened after January 6. First, they have a connection to specific individuals who chose to act for the betterment of their community and country. Secondly, they offer a reminder that even in darkness there remains optimism and kindness.

Frustratingly, my collecting on January 7 confined itself to the grounds of the National Mall. Due to limited time, I was unable to make my way to the Ellipse and Pennsylvania Avenue. Several days after the main event, the window for collecting from the scene appeared to be closing. But as luck would have it, *The Washington Post* published an article about a group of veterans of the War on Terrorism who rallied together to clean up trash left on January 6. Volunteers, organized by the veterans’ organization Continue to Serve, conducted “Operation Clean Sweep” on January 10, intent on removing bags of trash filled with flags,



Objects collected by the author on the National Mall on January 7, 2021.

graffiti, and stickers plastered on signs left behind by fascist, white nationalist, and alt-right groups. Suffice to say the effort lived up to the operation’s name; little trace of the hatred of January 6 remained to be seen thereafter.

Jennifer Nikodem, a former U.S. Navy petty officer and Continue to Serve’s Director of Operations, shared that members saved notable stickers and a flag from the cleanup effort. Nikodem and Hans “Tex” Palmer, a Marine veteran from Operation Iraqi Freedom, donated two abandoned 2020 Trump campaign flags and numerous vinyl stickers peeled from street signs. These bore the names or insignia of the Three Percenters and numerous Proud Boy factions, with language and symbology targeting the decentralized anti-fascist, anti-racist movement

See “Of Service and Thanks” cont’d on page 4

INSIDE

Of Service and Thanks: Collecting After January 6.....	1	Meet the National VA History Center Core Project Team.....	9
President’s Message.....	2	Remembering the American Indian Movement’s Occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.....	10
Editor’s Note.....	3	The History Professional.....	13
Call for Papers.....	3	Collecting Women’s History Manuscript Collections at the Library of Congress.....	15
In Memoriam: Martin J. Sherwin.....	5	Making History.....	17
David S. Ferriero Retires from NARA.....	6	Calendar.....	20
Call for Papers for the Twelfth Winton M. Blount Postal History Symposium.....	7		
Progress Report for the Inaugural DC Declaration of Learning.....	8		

The **FEDERALIST**

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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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

Mattea Sanders

It is hard to believe that this is my last message as President. It has been an honor to serve as your President for the last year. I am incredibly proud of everything the Executive Council accomplished in the last year—even given the circumstances of the pandemic. SHFG is an incredibly strong organization because of the many volunteer hours members contribute every year to executing projects, lectures, and our Annual Meeting. I am more excited than ever about the renewed interest in supporting the organization by current and new members, whether through new committees or our Annual Meeting Program Committee. Please reach out to our Nominating Committee if you are interested in serving in any capacity as they begin the work of putting together the slate of new Council and Committee members for 2022–2023.

We have continued working on many of the projects begun prior to 2020 and the COVID–19 pandemic. I hope that many of you will join us at the Annual Meeting in June to be a part of the conversations around these projects. Joel Christianson along with other members of the Executive Council are working on an Oral History Professional Standards guide which will be discussed during a workshop at the Annual Meeting. I am also looking forward to

our Spring Lecture with Jason Steinhauer—be on the lookout for an announcement on a date and time in your email boxes.

The last month here in Aviano, Italy, has given me much to consider about moments in history. Historians often find themselves in a moment where they consciously realize this is what historians in fifty to a hundred years will be studying and writing historiography about. While world events may cause uncertainty in our lives, we as historians are the lucky ones with a unique perspective that helps us to understand and that provides context for these events.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your President this year, as always please feel free to reach out to myself or the Executive Council at shfg.primary@gmail.com.

GET INVOLVED!

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

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

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

Donate to SHFG

Support New SHFG Events

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

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

Editor's Note

In this issue of *The Federalist*, National Museum of American History curator **Frank Blazich** describes the process of collecting artifacts related to the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol Building. Deputy Director of the DC History Center **Anne McDonough** highlights the inaugural DC Declaration of Learning program, a partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Reception Rooms, the White House Historical Association, DC Public Library, and DC Public Schools. **Kurt Senn**, Curator of the National VA History Center, provides an update on the formation of their Core Project Team and the development of the new museum's Interpretive Master Plan. "From the Library's Manuscript Collections" features a timely and fascinating essay on the origins and development of Library of Congress manuscript collections related to women's history by **Elizabeth A. Novara**, the historian of women and gender in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. **Bill Barry** discusses his career as Chief Historian of NASA in this issue's "History Professional" feature. This issue of *The Federalist* also features a look back at the American Indian Movement's Occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs by **Holly McDonald**.

This issue of *The Federalist* brings my five-year editorship to an end. I am privileged to hand off the responsibility for future issues to a diverse, talented, and motivated group of volunteers: Susan Dawson, Mike Gorn, James Mitchell, Jude Pfister, Steven Phillips, and Elizabeth Wilson. I know that they will do an outstanding job. Editing this newsletter has been a thrilling experience for me, and it has been an honor to work with so many SHFG officers, authors, and readers over the years. I am truly grateful to SHFG for having afforded me the opportunity to contribute to the organization in this way. As I leave to face new professional challenges, I will sincerely miss the editor's chair; nevertheless, I look forward to the sublime transition from *Federalist* editor to *Federalist* reader.

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

Federal History

CALL FOR PAPERS

Federal History, journal of the Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG), seeks articles for its 2023 issue.

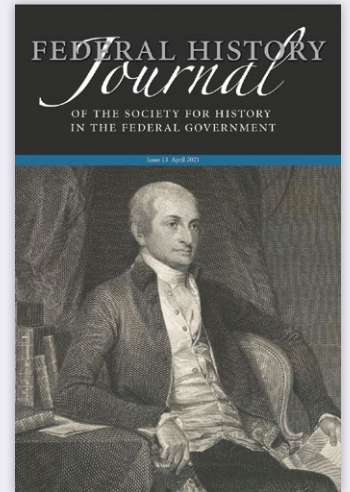
Federal History features scholarship on the history of the federal government, including military history, 1776–present. The journal also welcomes articles on methodological issues in federal historical work, including institutional history, archival science, museum studies, oral history, web-based history,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

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

See <http://www.shfg.org/page-18363> for current issue, past issues, and details on submissions, which should be sent to federalhistory@gmail.com.

Federal History is a peer-reviewed journal, and submissions should be 5,000–7,000 words, footnoted, and formatted according to *Chicago Manual of Style* (17th edition).

For additional information, please contact federalhistory@gmail.com.



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!

“Of Service and Thanks” from page 1

termed “ANTIFA.” Although physically small compared to the signage collected on January 7, the new material culture definitively linked certain actors to the previously “nameless” items which only represented political feelings and sentiment.

The National Museum of American History has also been fortunate enough to collect materials that speak to how the events of January 6 transformed life in Washington, D.C., In the wake of the attack on the U.S. Capitol, an expanded security perimeter and seven-foot-high fence surrounded the Capitol Building, with checkpoints for the screening of personnel and visitors was constructed. Thousands of military and law enforcement officials—including some 9,500 members of the National Guard—were deployed to secure the nation’s capital. As residents of Capitol Hill, Peter and Kassie Savoy and their two-year-old son, Noah, experienced this deployment firsthand. Wishing to extend warm hospitality to all the new guests, Noah loaded up a neighbor’s wagon with the help of his parents to hand out snacks and sodas to the soldiers and law enforcement. Assisted by several neighbors, he and his parents ventured out for almost every night over the course of three months to the security perimeter, donating over 2,500 snack bags to the Capitol defenders as small tokens of appreciation and gratitude. Between greetings and conversations about home and in return for his kindness, the soldiers gifted Noah and other local children assorted insignia from their uniforms.

The insignia, which the family donated on Noah’s behalf, offer a fascinating snapshot of some of the National Guard and law enforcement presence at the Capitol. The United States Secret Service, New York Police Department, and Capitol Police are represented by lapel pins and shoulder patches. The insignia for the Army National Guard include units from Texas, Vermont, Illinois, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Utah. Also among the donated insignia are patches for United States Forces—Afghanistan and for Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve commands.

The insignia are a reminder that the same people who for the past 20 years have been on the front lines of the War on Terrorism abroad, whether in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, or Syria, and found themselves in early 2021 having to clean up or defend the nation’s capital from the actions of fellow compatriots. This reality is sobering, that after two decades of investing blood and treasure in response to an attack by non-state actors of Al-Qaeda on the nation, some Americans who previously supported the War on Terrorism—or fought in it—now find themselves directing their anger and rage against the seat of their national government.

And while some veterans and active military personnel participated in the events of January 6, far more of the nation’s veterans continue to honor their oath to the Constitution and service to the state. Veterans, such as the members of Continue to Serve and those who protected the Capitol Building through May 2021, provide a reminder that selfless service for the betterment of neighbors and fellow humans will triumph over selfish and destructive behavior. Through their kindness to young Noah Savoy,



Some of the insignia given to Noah Savoy. Left to Right, top to bottom: 71st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade (TX); 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (VT); 108th Sustainment Brigade (IL); 149th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (KY); 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (SC); 300th Military Intelligence Brigade (UT); United States Forces—Afghanistan; and Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve (2021.0151.09-28).

these service members have demonstrated to our youngest generation the positive virtues in public service. As Patrick Savoy noted in a message to me,

[t]hrough it all we were particularly struck by the professionalism and kindness of National Guards and U.S. Capitol Police. They shared greetings, stories of their little ones back home, and lots of fist bumps to our little man. All while steadfastly fulfilling their role and never once complaining, no matter the hour or the elements. Getting a front row seat to the commitment, kindness, and patriotism of those Service Members is something that will stay with our family for years to come.

Even after passage of a year, the events of January 6, 2021, are still developing and coming into focus. The emotions from that day are still raw, and the facts of the day continue to come to light. The interpretation of artifacts from January 6 will remain a matter of time and analysis. But the objects collected post-January 6 offer a stark contrast: that neighborly kindness and public service provide a path to healthy democracy.

Frank Blazich Jr. is a curator of modern military history in the Division of Political and Military History. This story was originally posted to the National Museum of American History blog “O Say Can You See?” on January 6, 2022: <https://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/service-and-thanks>.

In Memoriam: Martin J. Sherwin

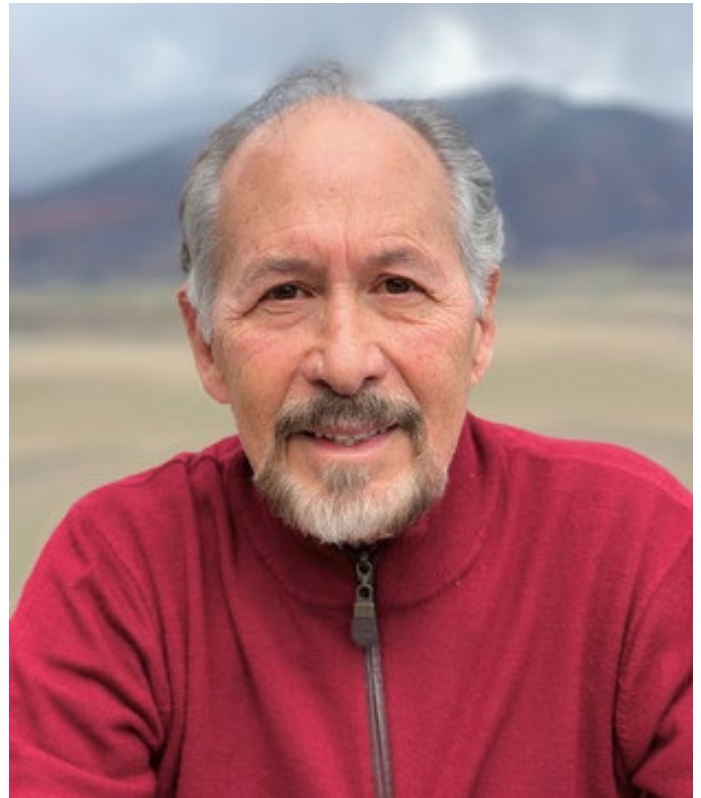
By Joel Christenson

Martin J. Sherwin, author of seminal works on the nuclear arms race and friend of the federal historical community, passed away on October 6, 2021, at his home in Washington, DC after a struggle with cancer. “Marty,” as he insisted on being called, devoted his career to building better public understanding of the most horrific weapons ever developed, and he did so with an energy, enthusiasm, and personal warmth that won him public and professional admiration as well as deep personal friendships with generations of scholars whose careers he shaped.

Born in New York City in 1937, Marty graduated from Dartmouth College in 1959 and was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. He was serving as an intelligence officer in an anti-submarine warfare training unit in the Fall of 1962 when the United States and the Soviet Union nearly annihilated the globe over Soviet nuclear missile emplacements in Cuba—a harrowing experience he recalled in the opening pages of his 2020 work, *Gambling with Armageddon: Nuclear Roulette from Hiroshima to the Cuban Missile Crisis*. Marty recalled his friends joking during those thirteen days that the beaches of Baja California (where operational plans had his unit relocating in the event of war) “would be a delightful place to die.” It was a distinctly Cold War-type of gallows humor, and the dark reality behind it sparked a curiosity that Marty would spend the rest of his life laboring to satisfy.

Marty earned his Ph.D. at UCLA in 1971, and in short order published the adaptation of his dissertation, *A World Destroyed: The Atomic Bomb and the Grand Alliance* (1975), as a corrective to a historical literature that he thought had over-simplified President Harry Truman’s decision to resort to atomic weapons against Japan in 1945. In 1980 he joined the faculty of Tufts University, where he founded the Nuclear Age History and Humanities Center and trained students whose own scholarly works added further depth and complexity to Cold War historiography. In 2005 Marty’s years-long scholarly partnership with journalist and biographer Kai Bird resulted in *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, a momentous effort which won the Pulitzer for biography in 2006. That same year he and his wife, Susan, relocated to the Washington, DC area, where Marty joined the Department of History and Art History at George Mason University.

I was fortunate to find myself in the first graduate course Marty taught at GMU in the Fall of 2006—appropriately enough, given his ongoing research, it was a research seminar on the Cuban Missile Crisis. Mason was, and is, unique in that the vast majority of its master’s and doctoral students were part-timers with nine-to-five jobs. Marty took to the GMU culture with gusto, trekking to the Fairfax campus through ruinous rush hour traffic for 7-to-9:50pm grad classes, meeting with students at hours that academics elsewhere might consider odd, and in my



Martin J. Sherwin. Photo by Susan Sherwin.

case, facilitating a research trip to the Kennedy Presidential Library around my full-time job.

I reconnected with Marty in 2018, when our paths crossed as he was finishing his research for *Gambling with Armageddon*. I had recently settled in to my current role in the OSD Historical Office, and Marty was mounting a last-minute effort to locate some elusive archival sources. We huddled for dinner on the George Mason campus to discuss it, but the conversation quickly veered in a different direction. Before talking history, he wanted to hear about my life since GMU, and to know how I was doing. My wife was fighting breast cancer, I told him, and I was doing all I could to juggle that, my career, and caring for my kids. Marty told me about his own earlier bout with cancer (which had gone into remission), and he related the heart-wrenching experience of losing his daughter, Andrea, to breast cancer when she was just 45. You’ll get through this together, he said. We barely got to talking shop. I endeavored to help him as best I could in the months that followed, but his research had (not surprisingly) been quite thorough. I managed to assist with a few useful leads before his book went to press. But front and center in every visit, phone call, and email exchange from then until the month before his passing, were questions and thoughts about loved ones. Even from the peak of the historical profession, clearly these were the things that mattered most to him.

Joel Christenson is a Senior Historian at the Historical Office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and the Vice President of the Society for History in the Federal Government.

David S. Ferriero Retires from NARA

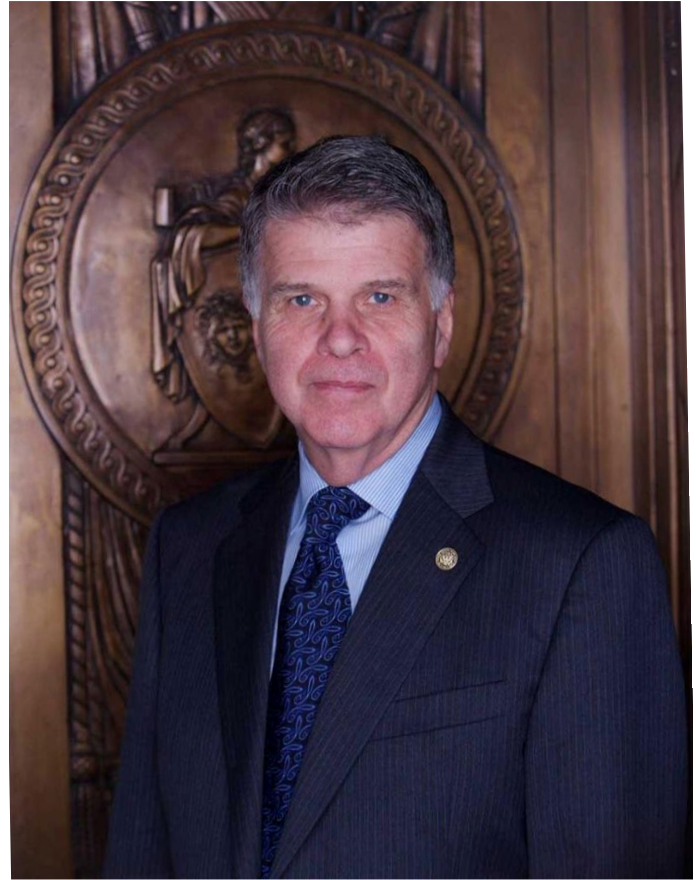
Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero will retire from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), effective mid-April 2022. He has served as the tenth Archivist of the United States, since November 6, 2009.

In his 12 years at the helm, Ferriero oversaw the transformation of the National Archives into a leader in the government's transition to a digital future, electronic records management, and the principles of Open Government. Under his leadership, NARA served its customers in new and innovative ways, including increasing public access and engagement through an online catalog and social media; streamlining how it served veterans; expanding access to museums, exhibits, and public programs in person and virtually; and establishing civic literacy initiatives. The National Archives fostered strong relationships with partner organizations, and increased outreach to traditional and new stakeholders. Throughout, Ferriero made sure to put the customer at the center of all that NARA does.

President Joe Biden expressed his gratitude for Ferriero's dedication and service: "Jill and I send heartfelt congratulations to Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero on the announcement of his retirement," Biden said. "Since his confirmation as Archivist in 2009, David has served with distinction, working closely with sitting and former presidents, and across the federal government, to ensure that our nation's story is preserved and made available to future generations of Americans. From the administration of presidential libraries to undertaking initiatives to promote broader access to the Archives, David's important work will benefit generations of Americans for decades to come."

Ferriero was appointed to his position by former President Barack Obama, who praised his continuing service: "Over the past 12 years, David Ferriero has guided the National Archives into the 21st century, and our democracy is stronger as a result. David knows better than anyone that good recordkeeping is the backbone of open government, and under his leadership the National Archives was able to give these records new life through increased access and engagement with the American people," Obama said. "Thanks to his dedication, we are better equipped to draw from our past as we work to forge a brighter future. Michelle and I wish David and his family the best as they embark on this next chapter."

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, also expressed her appreciation for Ferriero's tenure: "Archivist David Ferriero led the National Archives during a critical period in our nation's history, and I am incredibly grateful for his service," Maloney said. "He spearheaded landmark efforts to ensure government records are preserved electronically and worked with the Oversight Committee on important investigations involving preservation of White House and agency materials and public access to records. Our government is more transparent, and our nation's historical



Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero.

record is more complete for future generations, because of David Ferriero's leadership."

NARA's Chief Innovation Officer Pamela Wright reflected on the impact Ferriero's leadership had on the agency: "David Ferriero's contributions to the National Archives have been extraordinarily progressive. He leaves a modernized organization that has become a trusted partner and leader in the digital arena," Wright said. "He is a wonderful mentor, and many leaders in the agency learned from his example."

Senior officials responsible for records management in other federal agencies also expressed their appreciation for Ferriero's service.

Ann Dunkin, Chief Information Officer of the U.S. Department of Energy and former CIO of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), noted the important role Ferriero played in the records management field: "I've had the pleasure of collaborating with the Archivist and his team during my time at both EPA and DOE. His leadership throughout his tenure has been remarkable but especially so in propelling the federal government's digital transformation. His work to modernize electronic records management will leave a lasting legacy."

Yao-Chin Chao, Assistant Secretary of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, also praised Ferriero's

work in advancing digital transformation: “The Archivist’s leadership in advancing and expanding federal records management has been remarkable, especially in propelling the government’s digital transformation and elevating the status of records management by promoting the work of the Senior Agency Officials for Records Management.”

Former Michigan Governor Jim Blanchard, Chairman of the National Archives Foundation, noted the contributions Ferriero made to America’s democracy through educational and civics programs: “David Ferriero has been an outstanding National Archivist and a devoted advocate for our American heritage and our time-honored democratic institutions,” Blanchard said. “He has protected our Constitution and laws at a time when others questioned them or took them for granted. He has been dedicated to increasing transparency and civic literacy. Under his leadership the National Archives expanded its education and exhibit programs to address challenging issues and stressed the importance of public engagement in our nation’s civic process. At our National Archives Foundation we will be losing a valued partner and friend. David is also a leader of archivists world-wide and his leadership will be missed.”

Ferriero’s departure comes as the National Archives is deepening its commitments to access, equity, and customer experience.

“We aim to continue down the path that David Ferriero has begun,” remarked NARA’s Deputy Archivist Debra Steidel Wall. “The National Archives’ latest Strategic Plan is dedicated to advancing equity and improving service delivery by connecting with and providing access to underserved and underrepresented communities. And while we are extraordinarily sad to see the Archivist depart, we could not be more grateful for his remarkable vision and exceptional leadership.”

Looking back on his tenure, Ferriero said he was happy with the progress made during his tenure and expressed gratitude to NARA’s employees for their dedication and hard work: “My time at the National Archives gave me the opportunity to bring openness, access, and inclusion to the agency,” said Ferriero. “Working with such gifted and talented staff who are dedicated to preserving our nation’s records and its heritage has been a great honor and the highlight of my career. It is with gratitude for the staff at the National Archives, especially my Management Team, that I have pride in what we have all accomplished together.”

Wall will serve as acting Archivist of the United States until the President nominates and the Senate confirms Ferriero’s successor.

Twelfth Winton M. Blount Postal History Symposium

Call for Papers for the Twelfth Winton M. Blount Postal History Symposium, to be held December 8–9, 2022, at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, DC

THEME: Political Systems, Postal Administrations, and the Mail

Sponsored by the American Philatelic Society, the American Philatelic Research Library, and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

In countries around the world, postal administrations and their missions, practices, and regulations serve as reflections and agents of state goals and ideals. Like the administrations, be they privatized, quasi or fully governmental, these ideals and goals can vary widely. In all cases, they shape the relationship that citizens, subjects, or residents have to the mail and the post office, including their expectations and decisions on how and when to use them. By sending and receiving mail or by using other offered services, individuals participate in communities or networks—familial, commercial, social, or other. Moreover, the acts of using and engaging—even the potential for these—with postal services may simultaneously reinforce and challenge the postal administration and its political foundations.

Deadlines for proposals:

One-page proposal and CV due May 4, 2022. In addition to

a one-page proposal stating the question/s to be answered, the basic argument, and the source base, each individual should submit a one-page curriculum vitae that includes contact information (e-mail, phone, address) to smithsu@si.edu.

Notification of acceptance will be mailed on or about May 25, 2022. Although we are planning to hold the event in person, sessions will be streamed for viewing from home and slide shows and abstracts will be available online after the event. Presenters should plan to attend the event in person.

Papers due by October 15, 2022. Accepted proposals must result in previously unpublished papers of 5000–6000 words, including bibliographic material and citations. Event organizers hope presenters will consider the symposium an opportunity to receive feedback on their papers and are willing to facilitate the placement of publications in postal history and philatelic journals.

For additional information regarding the symposium, please see the Symposia and Lecture page on the National Postal Museum’s website at <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/symposia-and-lectures>.

Progress Report for the Inaugural DC Declaration of Learning

The following was posted to the blog of the DC History Center by Deputy Director Anne McDonough on November 16, 2021, at <http://dchistory.org/progress-report-for-the-inaugural-dc-declaration-of-learning/>.

This fall, educators participating in the inaugural DC Declaration of Learning (DC DOL) gathered in the Kiplinger Research Library, one of several touch-points in this year-long teacher training program. The DC Declaration of Learning is a DC History Center partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Reception Rooms, the White House Historical Association, DC Public Library, and DC Public Schools. This exciting opportunity expands the reach of the DC History Center by bringing collections that tell local stories into classrooms, through lesson plans and civic engagement projects spearheaded by local educators.

Some background: The Diplomatic Reception Rooms started the program in 2015, kicking off the Declaration of Learning in Arkansas, where it continues today. Then the initiative expanded, with the DC DOL and the Virginia DOL holding their first teacher training summits in summer 2021. Each cohort received access to historical objects, object-based activity training, and mentorship from experienced teachers, all while building relationships with other area educators.

Each partner organization chose objects from their collections that the participants then incorporate into unit and lesson plans; while the topics ran the gamut, the objects from the DC History Center most explicitly support study of compensated emancipation, DC home rule, the fight for DC statehood, transportation developments, neighborhood politics, urban renewal, and the DC public school system.

The pandemic required a pivot to a virtual summit this past July rather than the planned in-person experience, but the DC History Center was nonetheless thrilled to support the 22 teachers and librarians selected to participate. This inaugural year included applicants from several counties in Maryland



DC DOL educators engage with artifacts relating to compensated emancipation, the fight for DC statehood, urban planning and development, and other key issues in local history.

and Virginia, as well DC educators representing Bancroft Elementary School, Capitol Hill Montessori@Logan, Charles H. Houston Elementary School, Edmund Burke School, McKinley Tech High School, Plummer Elementary School, Randle Highlands Elementary School, Seaton Elementary School, Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School, and Tyler Elementary School.

Since the July summit, the teachers have Zoomed with their DC DOL mentors, continued to collaborate with DC History Center staff, and developed unit and lesson plans incorporating historical objects from each of the partner organizations. Once those lesson plans are implemented, the teachers will guide their students through civic engagement projects addressing an issue facing their community. We so look forward to seeing these projects develop as the year continues. Stay tuned!

Are you a 3rd-12th grade educator currently working at a DC public, public charter, parochial, or private school? Applications for the 2022-23 program will be opening soon! In the meantime, please email duncant2@america.gov with any questions about participating in the next DC Declaration of Learning program!

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!

Meet the National VA History Center Core Project Team

By Kurt Senn

A key first step in developing a new museum is an Interpretive Master Plan (IMP) and a project team to create it. On June 9, 2021, a group of VA employees (historians representing each VA administration and others from the VA History Office team) met with the staff from the Smithsonian Exhibits program. The discussion involved the development of an IMP for the National VA History Center (NVAHC) under development on Dayton VA Medical Center campus. A Core Project Team (CPT) formed following that meeting, and they are now tasked with developing the IMP for the NVAHC. The IMP will establish how the NVAHC will serve the public and what role it will play in telling the VA story.

In August of 2021, the newly formed CPT met in Dayton, Ohio. That meeting provided an opportunity for the team members to get to know one another and establish effective working relationships that define an effective team. The Team toured the Dayton campus, including the two historic buildings that will comprise the core of the NVAHC. Building 116 (Old Headquarters) will serve as the museum and building 129 (Clubhouse) will serve as the archival and collections center. The team developed a draft mission statement to guide the IMP development: tell the story of how the VA serves those who have served throughout the Nation's history. They also worked on initial themes that define the exhibit sections and components.

"Gathering as a team on the future site of the National VA History Center at the Dayton VA Medical Center campus provided the grounding needed to start our work," said Katie Delacenserie, Veterans Health Administration Historian. "The historic campus puts our purpose front and center and provided the focus needed in beginning to think about how we are going to tell the history of the VA."

In December 2021 the Team reconvened in Dayton to further refine themes, define the functions the museum would provide, and continue strategic planning. Those brainstorming sessions resulted in lists of potential themes that each member will use to develop exhibit elements.

"The second meeting of the full VA History Team in Dayton built on the great progress made in our first meeting," according to Historian Richard Hulver, a National Cemetery Administration Historian. "Together, the group mapped out the large themes that each Administration will want to tell and thought about overall cohesion of our story. We also spent time looking at the blank canvas that will be our museum and going out into the Dayton community to see how other historic buildings have been readapted for modern use."



Core Project Team in front of building 129, August 2021, from left: Mike Visconage, Jeffrey Seiken, Katie Delacenserie, Sara Amy Leach, Kurt Senn, Amy Ackman (intern), Robyn Rodgers and Richard Hulver. (VA Photo)

The CPT meets virtually on a weekly basis. It continues making significant progress outlining the themes and takeaway messages for the exhibits to be featured in the NVAHC. This is an important step to the development of the first VA museum. The museum is tentatively scheduled to open in 2026. Many other key milestones are still to come—from the IMP to opening the museum. We will keep you updated as we hit each milestone and this vision becomes a reality.

The team is listed below. You can learn more about them at https://www.va.gov/HISTORY/VA_History_Team/index.asp.

VA History Team—VA History Office

Michael Visconage, Chief Historian
Kurt Senn, Curator
Robyn Rodgers, Senior Archivist
Sara Amy Leach, NCA Senior Historian
Jeffrey Seiken, VBA Historian
Katie Delacenserie, VHA Historian
Richard Hulver, NCA Historian

Kurt Senn is curator of the National VA History Center. This story was originally posted to the Curator Corner page of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs History Office website on February 14, 2022, https://www.va.gov/HISTORY/National_VA_History_Center/Curator_Corner/004_CPT.asp.

Remembering the American Indian Movement's Occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs

The following was posted to WETA's blog "Boundary Stones" by Holly McDonald on October 29, 2021, at <https://boundarystones.weta.org/2021/10/29/remembering-american-indian-movements-occupation-bureau-indian-affairs>.

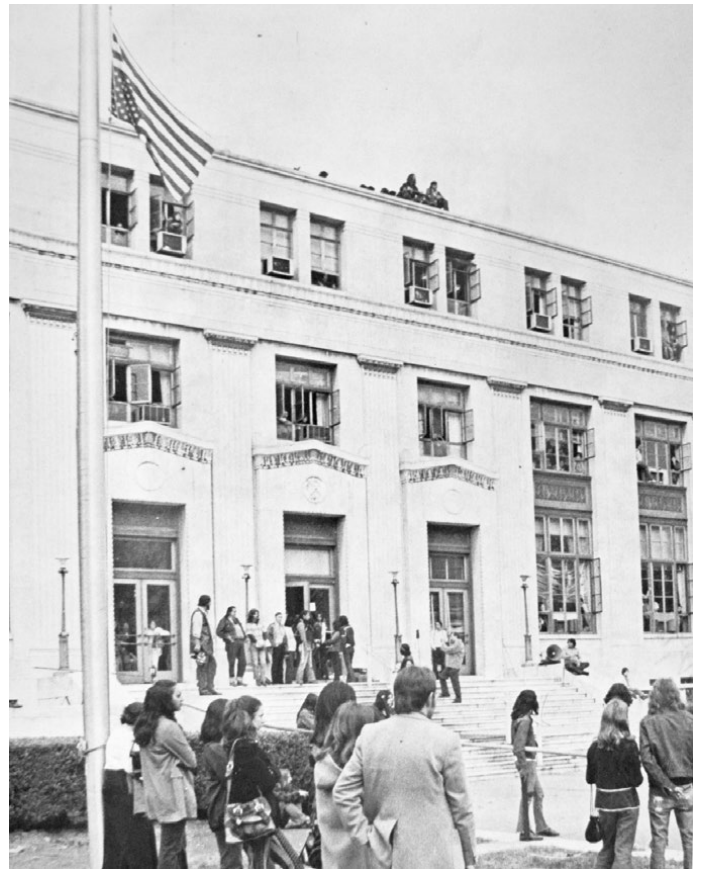
"If we go, we're going to take this building with us. If we go, this building's not going to be here. There's going to be a helluva smoke signal."¹ That's what Russell Means, an Oglala Dakota, told *Evening Star* reporters on November 6, 1972, a few days after he and a group of several hundred other Native Americans broke into the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in Washington, D.C. and refused to leave.

The rag tag band was made up of angry Native Americans of varying ages and genders who had traveled across the country for a march on Washington, much like the one staged by Black Americans in 1963.² They rallied together calling themselves the American Indian Movement (AIM). Led by Means, Dennis Banks (Leech Lake Chippewa), and Clyde Bellecourt and his brother Vernon (White Earth Ojibwe), the AIM caravan began in California and ended at the capital, picking up people along the way.³

Frances Wise (Waco-Caddo) of Oklahoma recalled, "A lot of people joined us. I remember driving around a freeway cloverleaf outside of Columbus, OH. All I could see were cars in front of us and behind us, their lights on, red banners flying from their antennae. It was hard to believe, really. We were that strong. We were really doing something. It was exciting and fulfilling. It's like someone who's been in bondage. Indian country knew that Indians were on the move."⁴

But what was the driving purpose behind the action? According to AIM leaders:

We seek a new American majority—a majority that is not content merely to confirm itself by superiority in numbers, but which by conscience is committed toward prevailing upon the public will in ceasing wrongs and in doing right. For our part, in words and deeds of coming days, we propose to produce a rational, reasoned manifesto for construction of an Indian future in America. If America has maintained faith with its original spirit, or may recognize it now, we should not be denied.⁵



AIM protesters from across the country arrived outside the BIA headquarters on November 2, 1972. Photo by Paul Schmick. Courtesy of the DC Public Library Washington Star Collection.

That manifesto came in the form of a paper known as The Twenty Points, each one outlining a demand. Among other things, the AIM argued for relief against treaty violations, land reform, and replacement of the BIA with an office that gave equal authority to the President, Congress, and individual Native nations. The main goal of the trip to the capital, dubbed the Trail of Broken Treaties, was to unite Native Americans from across the country, garner national attention, and present The Twenty Points to President Nixon.⁶ Because the Nixon administration previously established a strong track record with Native Americans by returning tribal lands to Taos Pueblo and Yakima tribes and passing a bill to "resolve land claims of the Alaska natives," the AIM expected their demands to be taken seriously.⁷

The AIM, which had begun in 1968, was unique because it framed Indigenous identity "as a way of living and viewing the world" as opposed to a racial issue. As a result, the AIM

1 "Indian Protesters Defy Eviction," *Evening Star*, November 6, 1972, 1.

2 David Kent Calfee, "Prevailing Winds: Radical Activism and the American Indian Movement," PhD diss., East Tennessee State University, 2002, 44.

3 Suzan Shown Harjo, "Trail of Broken Treaties: A 30th Anniversary Memory," *Indian Country Today*, last updated September 12, 2018. <https://indian-countrytoday.com/archive/trail-of-broken-treaties-a-30th-anniversary-memory/> "Clyde Bellecourt," Project Humanities, Arizona State University, accessed October 25, 2021, <https://projecthumanities.asu.edu/content/clyde-bellecourt>.

4 Alvin M. Josephy, et al., *Red Power: The American Indians' Fight for Freedom* (Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1999), 44.

5 "Trail of Broken Treaties 20-Point Position Paper," American Indian Movement, accessed October 18, 2021, <http://www.aimovement.org/archives/index.html>.

6 *Ibid.*

7 Vine Deloria, Jr., *Behind The Trail of Broken Treaties: An Indian Declaration of Independence* (Texas: University of Texas Press, 2010), 61.

appealed to Native Americans without a “strong ethnic or cultural awareness.” Banks, Means, and the Bellecourt brothers wanted to get Natives from both cities and reservations involved in their cause, and the Trail of Broken Treaties seemed like an effective way to do just that.⁸

According to the *Evening Star*, around 400 protesters gathered outside the BIA on November 2, 1972, from as many as 250 tribes for a week of demonstrations and discussions (other sources reported that there were 700 or 800 people in total).⁹ Over 80% came from reservation towns.¹⁰ Although the protests were intended to be peaceful, Means suggested the group would take a more hardline approach in the future if their demands were not met. Upon arriving in Washington, he vowed that he would “give the country until 1976 when the white man will be celebrating the bicentennial. If they haven’t produced meaningful change by then, they’re not going to have a happy celebration.”¹¹

Almost immediately, however, the mood of the demonstrations became tense. Before they made the journey to D.C., AIM leaders arranged for local churches to provide the protesters with food and housing for the week. Then, once the caravan got there, the churches revoked those offers for unknown reasons. While some were able to stay at a prearranged site the night of November 2, there was not enough space for everyone, so most of the demonstrators looked to the BIA for help in finding food and lodging.¹² When none came, they decided to settle inside the BIA headquarters building itself.¹³

By Suzan Harjo’s (Cheyenne and Hondulgee Moscovice) account, “It was the end of the workday for Washington bureaucrats and few BIA employees remained in the building after 4:30 p.m.... [General Services Administration] police clashed with [Indigenous] people in the lobby at the very time that American Indian Movement leader Dennis J. Banks, Leech Lake Chippewa, was conducting a press conference out front. Within minutes, GSA withdrew from the building and the [Trail of Broken Treaties] was barricaded inside.”¹⁴

They were fed up with bureaucracy as a whole, not just the federal government. As Martha Grass, a 50-year old Ponca woman from Oklahoma, put it, “The other minorities have made progress since 1968, but not the American Indian. We just have to deal with too many bureaucrats—the Interior Department here, the counsels in our own areas, and all the rest of them—and we can’t get anything done. Other minorities don’t have this kind of bureaucratic structure to deal with.” Grass joined the Trail of Broken Treaties with several young people, some of whom were



Even after multiple threats of eviction, most of the group refused to leave and used chairs to barricade the doors. Photo by John Bowden. Courtesy of the DC Public Library Washington Star Collection.

still in grade school, explaining, “I took them out of school and told them you’ll learn more up there in Washington than you ever will here.”¹⁵

On the morning of November 6, the Department of the Interior offered “comforts” to the remaining protesters if they ended the occupation. About 100 people did leave, but the rest of the demonstrators piled furniture to block the doors, enraged after Nixon sent a letter rejecting the AIM’s multiple requests to meet with him.¹⁶ They also began arming themselves, fashioning weapons out of steel rods, chair legs, and letter openers. The possibility of violence grew with each government request to leave the BIA.¹⁷

At one point, Harjo recalled seeing Means lighting a Molotov cocktail and hearing him yell, “It’s a good day to die.” But Harjo and others around her couldn’t let that happen, and together they stomped on the fuse until it was completely shredded. Oren Lyons, one of the other men there, chastised Means’ rash actions, saying, “You can’t do that. You can’t kill the people and destroy all those records. This is only a battle, not the war.”¹⁸

Although most of the group dispersed by November 8, around 150 protesters remained and wouldn’t budge, so the government decided it was time to hear them out by creating an interagency task force to discuss the AIM’s proposals.¹⁹ Early on in the process, the main negotiator, Henry Adams (Assiniboine-Sioux), got a call from Democratic Representative Julia Butler Hansen of Washington. Adams observed, “Just the fact that she was calling strengthened our hand and made them pay close attention. They were impressed because she chaired the House

8 Jeffrey Stotik, et al., “Social Control and Movement Outcome: The Case of AIM,” *Sociological Focus* 27, no. 1 (February 1994): 57.

9 David Holmberg and Harriet Griffiths, “Indian Leader Sees Future Violence,” *Evening Star*, November 2, 1972, 3. Harjo, “Trail of Broken Treaties.” “The Trail of Broken Treaties: March on Washington, DC 1972,” *Rising: The American Indian Movement and the Third Space of Sovereignty*, Muscarelle Museum of Art, 2020. <https://muscarelle.wm.edu/rising/broken-treaties/>.

10 Deloria, *Behind The Trail of Broken Treaties*, 57.

11 Holmberg and Griffiths, “Indian Leader Sees Future Violence,” 3.

12 “Indian Protesters Defy Eviction,” 1.

13 Harjo, “Trail of Broken Treaties.”

14 *Ibid.*

15 David Holmberg, “Indians ‘Doing Their Own Thing,’” *Evening Star*, November 4, 1972, 7.

16 “Indian Protesters Defy Eviction,” 1 & 6. “The Protesters: Sit-In and Negotiations Continue,” *Evening Star*, November 5, 1972, 61.

17 “Indian Protesters Defy Eviction,” 1 & 6.

18 Harjo, “Trail of Broken Treaties.”

19 Donald Lott, “Indian Cadre Remains in BIA Building,” *Evening Star*, November 8, 1972, 8.

subcommittee on Interior appropriations.” He added that Hansen even remarked, “It’s about time someone went in there and tore that damn place apart.”²⁰

Tearing the place apart is exactly what happened. In addition to breaking furniture, some of the demonstrators raided file cabinets, uncovering information related to Native American affairs that would incriminate multiple members of Congress. Rather than revealing the content of documents, Means only told the press, “What we are taking is secret. For the past 72 hours, we have been sorting through all this with our attorneys. We know what is important.”²¹

Amidst the havoc, negotiations did take place. The task force agreed to “draw up recommendations on Indian problems to be presented to President Nixon by June 1.” With that, the remaining protesters felt their mission had been accomplished. On November 9, the *Evening Star* reported, “The last two dozen Indian activists, who were under a court order to evacuate the building by 9 p.m. yesterday, quietly filed out at 9:15 p.m. and got in their cars. Then, escorted by two District police cruisers, the last of the “Trail of Broken Treaties” caravan headed west on Constitution Avenue and out of the city.”²²

20 Harjo, “Trail of Broken Treaties.”

21 Lance Gay, “Indians Go With ‘Incriminating’ Files,” *Evening Star*, November 9, 1972, 23.

22 Ibid.

In the short term, the federal government gave the demonstrators money to travel home and promised not to prosecute any of them for occupying the BIA (the amnesty did not extend to the damages).²³ But over the course of the following year, The Twenty Points were pretty much discarded, because according to one administration official, “A government makes treaties with foreign nations, not its own citizens.” The AIM even came to be viewed as a threat, leading the FBI to classify the movement as an extremist organization. Furthermore, “the Nixon administration, the FBI, and local police began a deliberate widespread attempt ‘to discredit, isolate, and imprison AIM leaders,’” overshadowing earlier efforts to listen to the group’s complaints and suggestions.²⁴

Not surprisingly, members of the movement were extremely disappointed with the government’s response to their efforts, but many continued to fight back in other ways.²⁵ When all was said and done, Frances Wise emphasized, “We came from Indian communities. When the flamboyant stuff was over, most of us went back home to help make our communities strong.”²⁶

23 Mitchell Satchell and Toni House, “Indians Held Liable: BIA Damage Hits \$1.9 Million,” *Evening Star*, November 10, 1972, 1.

24 Stotik, et al., “Social Control and Movement Outcome,” 59.

25 Deloria, *Behind The Trail of Broken Treaties*, 61.

26 Harjo, “Trail of Broken Treaties.”

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The History Professional *An Interview with Bill Barry*

Unlike most of the readers of The Federalist, William P. Barry pursued not one federal career, but two. He began as an Air Force officer, where for 22 years he flew KC-135 tankers and served as a flight instructor and pilot evaluator, in addition to teaching at the U.S. Air Force Academy. In the midst of these activities, he earned a doctorate in politics from the University of Oxford in 1996. He left the Air Force in 2001, when he began his second career with NASA. After three years as the agency's European Representative in Paris, he accepted the position of NASA Chief Historian, which he held from September 2010 to July 2020.



Bill Barry

Interview by Thomas Faith

When you accepted the position as NASA's Chief Historian in 2010, what did you hope you would be able to accomplish?

My main ambition when I accepted the job was to not mess up the great history program that my five predecessors had built. I was joining a small and highly experienced team of professionals who knew what they were doing. One thing I hoped to do is to make it a bit easier for them to continue to do outstanding work. I also hoped to build a bit on the great legacy we had inherited, but I was primarily thinking about improvements around the margins. Among the things that I had in mind were improving the *history.nasa.gov* website. It had grown rather unwieldy, was difficult to navigate and was not mobile-friendly. I also hoped to reinvigorate the NASA History Program relationships with our partner history professional organizations: the American Historical Association (AHA), the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) the History of Science Society (HSS), and, of course, SHFG. In addition, while our contract research and publications program was robust, the publication management process hadn't kept up with the technology revolution and needed to be modernized.

Much to my disappointment, the budget and staffing crisis that hit us derailed most of those hopes. Just prior to my arrival on the job, the Headquarters History Program had been shifted from the relative stability and obscurity of the Office of International and Interagency Relations to become part of a new division in the Office of Communications. The Office of Communications had long suffered from a dire budget shortfall—and that was about to get much worse. With NASA budget cuts in the 2013 and 2014 timeframe and the more general government-wide challenges of sequestration, things went downhill fast. Improvements around the margin? That went out the window while I focused most of my attention on keeping NASA's history and archival efforts alive.

What aspect of your personal or professional experiences do you think most influenced your approach to your position?

The personnel office categorizes the Chief Historian job as "supervisory historian." They could have left off that second

word. While I would have loved to have done more historical research and writing, my primary responsibility was managing the program. The variety of leadership opportunities I had throughout my life were the most important things in preparing me for that challenge. Most of my leadership experiences had been in the military, so there were some new things I had to learn. However, I have been a bureaucrat (of one sort or another) for my entire adult life, so I had a pretty good idea of how government organizations work (or don't work). I had seen lots of good, and a few bad, examples of leadership. My goal (only partially achieved) was to follow the example I most admired: leaders who led with a sense of service to others. When I lapsed into Air Force terminology, I would say that I saw my role as flying top-cover for the Headquarters and Center history and archival programs.

How did your office manage to expand its website and ebook offerings at <https://history.nasa.gov/> over the last several years?

On the website, we originally took the traditional approach of allocating a big part of our budget to a contractor-led overhaul. However, the funding for that vanished after the project had been started and the effort stalled out after a year or so. A few years later, shortly after we hired Robyn Rodgers to be the Chief Archivist, she volunteered to re-engineer the site on her own. The NASA IT folks were highly skeptical at first, but then they realized that Robyn could code with the best of them. Thanks to Robyn, and her ability to build a collaborative effort with our IT folks, we were able to roll-out a new, mobile-friendly version of *history.nasa.gov* in just a few months—just prior to the surge of activity around the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 (July 2019). The site not only looked more modern and functioned on people's phones, but it also provided a way to make the digitized parts of our archival collection directly accessible online. Sadly, between COVID and Robyn being poached away by the Department of Veterans Affairs shortly after I retired, the completion of the web update appears to have stalled. I have high hopes for its eventual completion.

The expansion of ebooks was more of a case of a solution that happened to come up just in time to solve a desperate

situation. The NASA History Program traditionally printed 3,000 to 4,000 copies of new publications and distributed them directly and through the Government Publishing Office (GPO). Funding for printing came from the NASA Headquarters central printing budget. Changes at GPO made distribution more difficult over time, but, more critically, NASA slashed the central printing budget leaving the History Program to fund printing out of our already shrinking operations budget. Fortunately, the great folks in NASA's printing and design office had already been gearing up for ebooks and they made it easy (and less expensive) for the History Program to shift to ebooks as our primary distribution method. Now, in addition to a minimal print run of two thousand print copies, all new NASA history publications are posted for free download at the NASA ebook site: https://www.nasa.gov/connect/ebooks/history_ebooks_archive_1.html. In the past, getting a copy of one of our books meant finding one of the few thousand printed copies, usually by tracking one down at your library. Now, rather than a few thousand copies in print, tens of thousands of copies are being downloaded by interested readers. Ebooks have been a major improvement in the reach of NASA history scholarship. While all of the NASA history books published in the last 10 years came out as ebooks, and quite a few earlier works had been posted on our site as PDFs, a substantial number of books in our back catalog were not available electronically. A few years after I started at NASA, we made a major effort to scan and post the entire back-catalog. Thanks to Andres Almeida and our interns we were able to pull this off with our limited internal resources. I believe that making virtually every NASA history publication, and quite a few other NASA publications of historical interest, available electronically was one of the significant successes of the last decade for the program.

How has your office worked to tell more inclusive histories about the people at NASA?

Fortunately, there have been efforts to be more inclusive in NASA history for quite a while. Initiatives by NASA's third Chief Historian, Sylvia Fries, went a long way to nudging NASA history out of the habit of focusing on hardware and heroes. Notably, this included her own book *NASA Engineers and the Age of Apollo*. That trend accelerated under her successors: the incomparable Roger Launius, and Steve Dick, who initiated our societal impact series. Of course, the usual documentary record is not necessarily conducive to writing inclusive history. We have relied heavily on oral history to fill in the documentary gaps and continued to emphasize a rigorous effort in this field—led (primarily) by our team of experts at Johnson Space Center. Broadening the coverage of NASA history has also benefitted tremendously from people doing their own research and writing. Our amazing archivists have welcomed many researchers to NASA Headquarters over the decades. During my tenure, I was particularly touched by the glowing praises of our archival team in the acknowledgements section of so many of the books that have expanded our understanding of NASA history. While it

may seem the situation improved significantly under my watch, what you see now is really the culmination of an extended team effort at more inclusive history..

In 2020, NASA's agency-wide Mission Support Future Architecture Program identified several areas where the history program might be improved. How can NASA's History Office capitalize on those findings?

The Mission Support Future Architecture Program (MAP) was a long, deep dive into all of the support functions at NASA. While the stated goal was rationalizing support, we all knew that programs and, especially, budgets were under the gun. To me, the big take-away from MAP (which was still in progress when I retired) was a recognition by NASA management that history work across NASA is far too inconsistent. Some of the ten NASA Centers have robust archival and/or history programs, but too many had only one or the other—and one Center had neither an archival nor a history program. Moreover, the agencywide program has been crippled by budget and personnel cuts in recent years. MAP provided clear and incontrovertible data about these problems. My hope is that, despite the need to address the bottom line, NASA leadership will take action to create healthy history and archival programs at all NASA Centers.

While you directed NASA's History Office, NASA commemorated a long series of significant anniversaries, including the 50th anniversaries of the Apollo missions. What advice would you offer to other organizations planning to commemorate major historical events?

Start early—very early. My friend and predecessor Roger Launius has frequently said that anniversaries are a double-edged sword for a history program. They can bring extra resources and opportunities, but they often come with outsized (and under-resourced) expectations. That was certainly true in my experience. The centennial of NASA's predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) in 2015 proved an excellent test of our ability to do more with less money and time than needed. While you might think that the 50th anniversary of the first Moon landing would be more eagerly anticipated and carefully planned, you would be wrong. Getting middle management attention on the needed planning and (especially) the budget for the anniversary was a fruitless struggle. While the anniversary left a positive public impression, this was only due to the herculean, last-minute efforts by a huge group of NASA folks. My advice for any federal historian with a major anniversary coming (and that is all of you, eventually), is to start lobbying your organizations' top leaders 7-8 years in advance—with a goal of having top-level guidance, and an actual budget, 5 years in advance. When there is a change of presidential administration, make sure that planning for the upcoming anniversary is front and center in your discussion with new political appointees.

See "*History Professional*" cont'd on page 19

From the Library's Manuscript Collections

Collecting Women's History

Manuscript Collections at the Library of Congress

By Elizabeth A. Novara

In previous issues of *The Federalist*, Josh Levy discussed the history of collecting manuscripts related to science and technology at the Library of Congress, and Barbara Bair described manuscript collections in literature, culture, and the arts. Since March is women's history month, it seems appropriate for the spring issue of this newsletter to continue this series with an emphasis on women's history materials. The Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress has a long tradition of collecting women's history materials and is continuing to build and strengthen its holdings to document the diversity of American women's lives from the colonial period to the present day.

The Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress is home to more than seventy million items contained in approximately twelve thousand separate collections. These collections include some of the greatest manuscript treasures of American history and culture, including Thomas Jefferson's rough draft of the Declaration of Independence and Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The division houses the papers of 23 presidential papers collections ranging from George Washington to Calvin Coolidge. There are also papers of members of Congress, Supreme Court justices, government officials, and a diverse array of other personal papers and organizational records documenting political, social, cultural, and scientific history. Among these treasures are many collections and documents that reveal the history of American women. These materials demonstrate women's activism in reform movements, including the women's suffrage campaign, as well as women's political acumen and their scientific, literary, and cultural achievements. The division has achieved various "firsts" in history, of women who were pioneers in fields formerly restricted to men, and, of course, the papers of first ladies, including the papers of Dolley Madison, Lucretia Garfield, and Edith Wilson.

Of particular interest to many women's history researchers are the division's women's suffrage collections, and Library officials identified women's suffrage as a targeted subject for acquisitions with surprising foresight. The Library began reaching out to suffragists to donate materials in the decades before the white women's suffrage movement achieved its goal of a federal suffrage amendment in 1920. As early as 1903, Librarian of Congress Ainsworth Rand Spofford convinced his friend Susan B. Anthony to donate her collection of books and other printed materials to the Library, where they now reside in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. While some of the volumes are not particularly rare, Anthony carefully inscribed many of the volumes, noting their significance to her life's work. At the same



The Blackwell and the Spofford families circa 1900s. Back row, left to right: Dr. Emily Blackwell, Ainsworth Spofford, Alice Stone Blackwell, Lucy Stone; front row, left to right: Henry Browne Blackwell, Florence Spofford, Sarah (Partridge) Spofford. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2012647968/>

time, Anthony donated a portion of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's papers, and Stanton's daughter, suffragist Harriet Stanton Blatch, later donated additional materials to her mother's papers in the 1920s. Years later Anthony's niece, Lucy E. Anthony, finally donated Susan B. Anthony's related manuscript collection. Following Anthony's example, suffrage leader Carrie Chapman Catt also donated her books in the early twentieth century, but curators at the Library pressed her too early for the donation of her papers in January 1918. Catt diplomatically responded, "At the present moment I do not think we have sufficient time to prepare any suitable deposit for the Library of Congress. We are hopeful and expectant that our movement is nearly at an end." The suffrage movement was still in full swing at that time and it would take two and half more years for the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Catt's reform work was not finished even after the passage of the amendment, and so her papers would not arrive until several decades later.

Librarian of Congress Spofford likewise developed relationships with other members of the woman's suffrage movement including with members of the Blackwell family. Lucy Stone and her husband, Henry Browne Blackwell, agitated not just for women's suffrage, but also abolition, temperance, and women's rights. Spofford had met Henry Blackwell in Cincinnati, Ohio, before he became Librarian of Congress, and the two families remained friends throughout their lifetimes. While the Blackwells had formed a strong connection to the Library of Congress in the nineteenth century, their family papers did not arrive at the Library until much later. Edna Stantial, to whom Alice Stone Blackwell bequeathed the family papers, officially donated the papers to the Library in 1961. The papers included not only Lucy Stone and Henry Blackwell's papers, but those of almost twenty other family members including Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell, female pioneers in the medical profession; Antoinette Brown Blackwell, the first woman ordained as Protestant minister in the

United States; and Alice Stone Blackwell, Lucy and Henry's suffragist daughter and editor of the *Woman's Journal*. Stantial, a suffragist and women's rights activist also well known as an archivist for women's suffrage collections, also donated two other significant women's suffrage-related collections, the papers of Carrie Chapman Catt and the records of the National American Woman Suffrage Association or NAWSA, at the same time as the Blackwell Family Papers. These three collections were at one time known as the "Suffrage Archives." Stantial would later donate the papers of Maud Wood Park, the first president of the League of Women Voters, and the League of Women Voters (U.S.) records would also find their way to the division.

Similar acquisition efforts developed and donor connections formed over the course of the early and mid-twentieth century. As a result, the personal papers of many other leading participants in the white women's suffrage movement, including those of Anna E. Dickinson, Madeline McDowell Breckinridge, Harriot Stanton Blatch, Maud Wood Park, and countless other individuals, were accessioned by the Library of Congress. The Library also acquired the records of the National Woman's Party (NWP), first with a loan of materials from NWP leader Alice Paul as early as 1921, and then a formal donation in 1938. Along with the NAWSA records, mentioned previously, the acquisition of the NWP records carried great significance in that the Manuscript Division's collections now consisted of the two largest national women's suffrage associations in the United States. Almost one hundred years after this initial loan of materials by Alice Paul, the NWP donated their remaining organizational records and library to the Library of Congress in 2020.

This overview of acquisitions efforts for women's suffrage collections illustrates the importance that officials at the Library placed on white women's suffrage and related reform movements and while these efforts built an unparalleled research collection, their selectivity also came with consequences for collection-building. While eager to collect at the first half of the twentieth-century, the division's interest in collecting women's history waned over the course of the twentieth century, until a woman's history specialist was hired in the early 1990s. As a result, documentation of women's rights movements of the 1960s and beyond is not as strong as of the women's suffrage movement; nevertheless, there are some collections that stand out on this topic such as the records of ERAmerica and of the National Federation of Democratic Women. Other strengths of the collections that developed included a focus on women's health and medicine, such as the papers of Civil War nurse and American Red Cross founder Clara Barton and those of birth control advocate Margaret Sanger; women in journalism, including the papers of Ruby Black, Bess Furman, May Craig, and Ann Cottrell Free, who all covered Eleanor Roosevelt and World War II and its aftermath; and women in anthropology, with the groundbreaking donation of the Margaret Mead Papers in 1980.

Another critique of early and mid-twentieth-century acquisitions efforts is that most of the women represented in the division's holdings are white and from middle- and upper-middle-class



Nannie Hellen Burroughs (left) standing and holding banner reading, "Banner State Woman's National Baptist Convention," with eight other African American women, circa 1900s-1910s. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. <https://www.loc.gov/item/93505051/>

families. The concern that collections primarily represent society's political, social, and cultural elite is a challenge with all of the division's collections, not just those related to women. Despite this fact, some very important examples of African American women may be found among the division's collections, but fewer sources exist in the division written by Native Americans or by women of Asian, Hispanic, or other origin. The papers of African American suffragists, reformers, and civil rights activists acquired by the division include those of Mary Church Terrell and Nannie Helen Burroughs. Terrell's papers were given by her daughter Phyllis Terrell Langston beginning in 1955 and the Nannie Helen Burroughs papers were acquired in the 1970s. African American women's civil rights activism is also documented in the records of the NAACP, donated beginning in 1964, in the National Urban League, donated in 1966, and in the papers of Rosa Parks, a twenty-first century gift to the Library. The papers of Congresswoman Patsy Mink, donated in 2002, document not only the history of the first woman of color elected to Congress, but offer a rich resource on women's rights, environmental activism, and Asian American and Pacific Islander perspectives in American politics. Of course, as with many federal, state, or local government archives, information on African American, Asian American, Native American, other women of color, and about women in general appears in the Manuscript Division's papers of male legislators, judges, missionaries, doctors, educators, soldiers, and scientists. These materials, perhaps not so consciously sought for their documentation of women's history, not only include men writing about white society's attitudes about ethnicity, race, and gender; but also materials, such as women's own diaries and letters, documenting the everyday. Women's historians have often resorted to the strategy of hunting for evidence of women's lives within multigenerational family papers or in previously unnoticed groupings within the papers of a

more famous husband, father, or brother.

The Manuscript Division continues to build and expand our collections in order to document the varied and diverse experiences of American women. This article only begins to scratch the surface of the Manuscript Division's current holdings related to American women's history. To discover more about the Manuscript Division's collections check out the

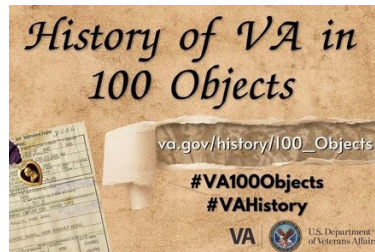
revised and updated online guide "American Women: Resources in the Manuscript Division," which has recently been released on the Library's website: <https://guides.loc.gov/american-women-manuscript>

Elizabeth A. Novara is the historian of women and gender in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.

Making History

Department of Veterans Affairs History Office

If you wanted to create an album of your family's history but were limited to 100 items, what would you put in and what would you leave out? These were the questions that the VA



History staff asked in compiling the *History of VA in 100 Objects* virtual exhibit. The exhibit tells the history of the nation's efforts to honor and reward Veterans for their services by spotlighting individual objects that illuminate key parts of that story. We will be rolling out the exhibit in stages on the VA History website, (https://www.va.gov/history/100_Objects) with entries on bounty land warrants, one of the earliest—and now largely forgotten—benefits offered to Veterans, and the visitors register from Fort Scott National Cemetery in Kansas.

While 100 is a big number that gives us an opportunity to explore many different aspects of VA history, the exhibit makes no claim to being comprehensive. We would need far more than 100 objects to do that. Instead, the people, places, events, and physical artifacts featured in the exhibit present a kaleidoscopic picture of VA's past. The *100 Objects* exhibit ranges across this timeline, from the earliest laws governing disability claims for Revolutionary War soldiers to the latest practices to protect VA workers and Veterans from the COVID-19 pandemic. Entries will be published on the website each week in no particular chronological order, which may lead to some unusual pairings. Don't be surprised one week if an entry on a pension application from a War of 1812 widow appears alongside another on the cardiac pacemaker pioneered by VA researchers in the 1950s. We have also made space in the exhibit for the unusual and the offbeat. An item such as the cranberry glass toothpick holder from the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in Dayton, Ohio, might seem like a mere curio. The same might be said of the late 19th century cemetery deed or the photo of clerks at one of VA's predecessor organizations, the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, laboring away in temporary workspace at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History during World War I. But large or small, these objects provide a window into the past and they have a meaningful story to tell.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

Get a sneak peek inside the Library's newest special exhibit online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctKm7i5cCSc>. *FDR's Final Campaign* immerses visitors in the final momentous months of President Roosevelt's life and presidency. Featuring rarely seen documents, photos, film and artifacts it explores FDR's vision for the future of his nation and the world—and the campaign he undertook to secure it. At the center of that vision was the creation of the United Nations organization.

George C. Marshall Foundation

Join Robert K. Sutton, former chief historian of the National Park Service, for a look at the crucial work done at Fort Hunt, Virginia, during World War II, where the highest-level German prisoners were interrogated, and captured documents analyzed. Many of the servicemen involved in this top-secret program were Jews who had escaped Nazi Germany as children, and all had personal motivation to do whatever they could to defeat the Axis Powers. *Nazis on the Potomac: The Top-Secret Operation that Helped Win World War II* can be watched on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvJWF11ibsg>. We encourage you to ask questions in the YouTube comments section for Dr. Sutton to answer, and hope you will share the presentation with your friends and colleagues.

Library of Congress

After collecting a wide variety of web content documenting the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years, the Library of Congress is now making its growing Coronavirus Web Archive available to the public at <https://www.loc.gov/collections/coronavirus-web-archive/about-this-collection/>. The collection, which now includes 450 web archives, aims to balance government, science, business and policy content with human stories that will give future historians a sense of how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the daily lives of individuals, families and communities. The Library has been capturing coronavirus web content in many of its existing web collections since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, well before establishing a formal collection plan in June 2020. Since the Library is a member of the International Internet Preservation Consortium, Library staff also nominated sites for that effort. Library subject specialists

are currently collecting content on vaccine rollouts, testing, virus variants, face mask guidance and developing subjects, such as guidance for students and teachers returning to the classroom. New content will continue to be released monthly, following a one-year embargo, as a part of this ongoing collection.

National Archives and Records Administration

In accordance with President Biden’s directive of October 22, 2021, the National Archives posted 1,491 documents subject to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 (JFK Act). Released documents are available for download at <https://www.archives.gov/research/jfk>. The John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection, established by the National Archives in November 1992, consists of approximately five million pages. The vast majority of the collection has been publicly available without restrictions on access since the late 1990s. As of December 15, 2021, all documents subject to section 5 of the JFK Act have been released in full or in part. No documents subject to section 5 of the JFK Act remain withheld in full. Over the next year, the National Archives and the agencies proposing continued postponement of more than 14,000 previously withheld documents will be conducting an intensive review of each remaining section 5 redaction to ensure that the United States Government maximizes transparency. Any information currently withheld from public disclosure that agencies do not propose for continued postponement beyond December 15, 2022, will be released to the public on that date.

National Coalition for History

On February 13, Lee White, executive director of the National Coalition for History (NCH), was interviewed by Greta Brawner, host of the daily call-in show *Washington Journal*. The interview addressed the mission of NCH and the importance of the Presidential Records Act, why it was established, and what prompted its revision in 2014. Listen to the broadcast at <https://www.c-span.org/video/?517768-4/washington-journal-lee-white-discusses-presidential-records-act>

National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced \$24.7 million in grants for 208 humanities projects across the country. Among these are grants to support Oakwood University’s creation of a living history museum, based on the life of Dred Scott, and the digitization of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century North American climate and weather data, including daily meteorological observation records kept by Thomas Jefferson from 1776 to 1826. More information and a full list of awards is available at <https://www.neh.gov/news/neh-announces-247-million-208-humanities-projects-nationwide>.

National Museum of the American Indian

Cynthia Chavez Lamar has been named director of the

Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, effective Feb. 14. She is the first Native woman to be named as a Smithsonian museum director. Chavez Lamar has been at the museum most recently since 2014, and earlier in her career was a museum intern (1994) and later an associate curator (2000–2005). She is currently the museum’s acting associate director for collections and operations. Chavez Lamar is an accomplished curator, author and scholar whose research interests are focused on Southwest Native art and the methodologies and practices involved in collaborating with Indigenous communities. She is the third director of the National Museum of the American Indian. Chavez Lamar succeeds Kevin Gover (Pawnee), who served as director from December 2007 until January 2021. He is now the Smithsonian’s Under Secretary for Museums and Culture. The founding director was W. Richard West Jr. (Southern Cheyenne), who led the museum from 1990 to 2007. Machel Monenerkit has served as acting director of the National Museum of the American Indian since Gover left in January 2021.

National Park Service

Charles F. “Chuck” Sams III was ceremonially sworn in as Director of the National Park Service (NPS) by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland on December 16, 2021. Chuck is the first Tribal citizen to lead the agency, which has been without a Senate confirmed leader for nearly five years. In his capacity overseeing the NPS, Chuck will help implement the Great



American Outdoors Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. In addition to historic funding for climate resiliency initiatives and legacy pollution clean-up, the infrastructure law provides for a five-year reauthorization of the Federal Lands Transportation Program, which will help invest in repairing and upgrading NPS roads, bridges, trails and transit systems. The law also invests in projects that will help fund bridge replacements and resiliency, repair ferry boats and terminal facilities, and maintain wildlife crossings that keep people and surrounding wildlife safe.

National Portrait Gallery

The Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery will present *Watergate: Portraiture and Intrigue*, an exhibition exploring the 50th anniversary of the watershed moment through portraiture of the era. The exhibition will display 25 objects in various mediums spanning from fine art to pop culture to explore the relationship between portraiture, investigative journalism, activism and politics. *Watergate: Portraiture and Intrigue* is curated by the Portrait Gallery’s acting senior historian Kate Clarke Lemay and will be on view March 25 through Sept. 5 as part of the museum’s “One Life” series.

Office of Strategic Services Society

The OSS Society installed a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery to honor OSS personnel killed in action in World War II. It is located near the gravesite of OSS founder General William Donovan in Section Two.

Society of American Archivists

Responding to recent media reports, SAA President Courtney Chartier with the assistance of the Committee on Public Policy sent the following letter to the editors of the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Politico*, *The Hill*, and *Chicago Tribune*:

Recent media reports about former-president Trump's regular practice of tearing up documents required to be preserved under the federal Presidential Records Act should be of concern to all Americans. Government records laws exist to ensure that our public servants are accountable to the people they serve. The White House Office of Records Management deserves great credit for ensuring that these documents were retained regardless of their condition, as well as the National Archives for helping to make them usable for accountability and transparency.

These reports underscore the importance of maintaining the funding and independence of the National Archives. Additionally, the current Archivist of the United States will retire spring 2022 and the next Archivist will continue to play a critical role in ensuring that essential evidence of our democracy is both preserved and made accessible according to federal law. Given the issues at stake, it is critical that the Biden administration select an appointee who is highly skilled and well versed in the nature and management of federal government records—and particularly presidential records. On behalf of the Society of American Archivists, we urge that this issue be given the critical attention it merits on behalf of the American people.

“History Professional” from page 14

How does the history of space research and exploration inform the study of the history of the federal government?

Understanding the history of our federal government is important to our future. Sadly, it is widely ignored. The activities of most federal agencies are often considered both unimportant and boring. NASA has long had the advantage of a mission that was of broad interest to the public (and decisionmakers), as well as the blessing of early leadership that saw the value of collecting and analyzing historical data. Nonetheless, NASA still functions like any other federal agency and the history of space research and exploration—while, perhaps, “sexier” than the work of some other agencies—is still the history of our government at work. The best works of air and space history shed light not only on one organization, but on the broader questions of federal history. Hopefully that helps us all understand our broader successes and failings, so that we can learn from all of them.

What do you believe you will miss most about your job now that you are retired?

The people. While I haven't exactly dropped off the edge of the Earth, the occasional email, call, or social media contact is no substitute for daily teamwork with an incredibly talented and dedicated group of friends. I miss the camaraderie of doing that good work, under sometimes difficult circumstances, with people that I care about.

What are your plans for the future?

Notwithstanding the fact that I miss the people I worked with, I really am enjoying spending more time with my family (and a lot less time on videoconferences). Then there is my long list of air and space history projects that I didn't have time to work on while I was Chief Historian. Those will keep me busy for quite a few years to come. There are also a number of volunteer activities that I have the time and resources to support. And... when the weather is nice, I've been enjoying the opportunity to get back into flying gliders—especially teaching young folks how to fly. I'm sure that I'm not busier in retirement than I was at work; but, sometimes it does feel that way, and I love it.



The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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Federalist Calendar

Mar. 31–Apr. 2, 2022. DC History Conference. 48th Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. Visit <http://dchistory.org/conference/>

Mar. 31–Apr. 3, 2022. Organization of American Historians. Annual Meeting. “Indigenous/American Past and Futures.” Boston, MA. Visit <https://www.oah.org/meetings-events/oah22/>

Apr. 28–May 1, 2022. Society for Military History. 88th Annual Meeting. Fort Worth, TX. Visit <https://www.smh-hq.org/annualmeeting/index.html>

May 4–6, 2022. National Council on Public History. Annual Meeting. Virtual. Visit <https://ncph.org/conference/2022-annual-meeting/>

May 11–13, 2022. Center for Cryptologic History. 18th Cryptologic History Symposium. “Icons and Innovation.” Laurel, MD. Visit <https://cryptologicfoundation.org/what-we-do/educate/conferences/symposium.html>

June 2–3, 2022. Society for History in Federal Government. Annual Meeting. “The Resiliency of Institutions.” Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education. Shepherdstown, WV. Visit <http://www.shfg.org/Annual-Meeting>

June 16–18, 2022. Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. Visit <https://shafir.org/content/shafir-2022-call-papers>

July 21–24, 2022. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR). 43rd Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. Visit <https://www.shear.org/annual-meeting/>

Aug. 20–Aug. 27, 2022. Society of American Archivists. 86th Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. Visit <https://www2.archivists.org/conference/>

Sep. 21–24, 2022. Northern Great Plains History Conference. Annual Meeting. Fargo, ND. Visit <https://www.ngphconference.org/>

Oct. 19–22, 2022. Oral History Association. Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA. Visit <https://www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/>

Dec. 8–9, 2022. 12th Winton M. Blount Postal History Symposium. Smithsonian National Postal Museum. “Political Systems, Postal Administrations, and the Mail.” Washington, DC. Visit <https://postalmuseum.si.edu/symposia-and-lectures>

Jan. 5–8, 2023. American Historical Association. 137th Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. Visit <https://www.historians.org/annual-meeting/>

Mar. 23–26, 2023. Society for Military History. 89th Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. Visit <https://smh-hq.org/conf/futuremeetings.html>