



# The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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**SHFG**  
[www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org)

## FEDERAL HISTORY 2.0: Rethinking Methods and Approaches in the Wake of a Pandemic

**Deadline: 15 March 2023**

The past few years represent a true sea change for federal historians, archivists, curators, and preservationists. The aftermath of the COVID-19 epidemic dramatically altered how and where those engaged in federal history conduct their work. It required federal history professionals to come up with new and innovative ways to continue conducting research, producing histories, and doing all other aspects of their jobs. This year's SHFG conference will explore this transformation within federal history offices, libraries, archives, and museums. The 2023 SHFG conference will take place on June 1-2 at the National Archives in Washington.

For more information, visit the SHFG website or email the Program Committee at: [shfg.primary@gmail.com](mailto:shfg.primary@gmail.com)

## Spotlight on Black History Month

### National Archives

Rediscovering Black History is the blog of the Black History Guide, sharing records relating to the Black Experience at the National Archives. The bloggers include National Archives staff, students, and researchers interested in African American history. This blog covers a wide variety of topics based on the unique materials in the National Archives. Topics include sports legend and civil right champion Bill Russell, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, community activist, volunteer, and supercentenarian Virginia Lugenia McLaurin, and NFL legend Franco Harris. The blog also highlights materials on topics such as the desegregation of public schools in Virginia and the 1992 Los Angeles Uprising.

Frequent updates are available at [rediscovering-black-history.blogs.archives.gov/](http://rediscovering-black-history.blogs.archives.gov/). See also NARA's African-American History page at [www.archives.gov/news/topics/african-american-history](http://www.archives.gov/news/topics/african-american-history).

### Veterans Administration

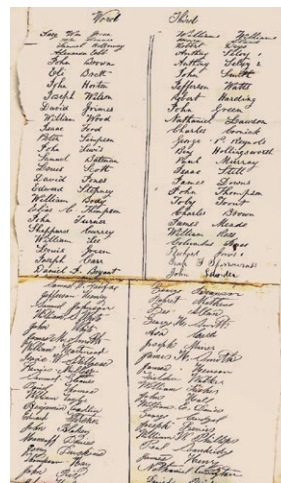
100 Objects: Object 32: U.S. Colored Troops Burial Petition

By Richard Hulver, Historian, National Cemetery Administration

Just after Christmas in 1864, African American soldiers recuperating at the United States Colored Troops (USCT) L 'Overture General Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia, submitted a petition for the right to burial alongside their White counterparts



Above: Former Pittsburgh Steelers running back Franco Harris speaking at event, involving Secretary Gale Norton, past and current National Football League stars, and volunteers from non-profit organization KaBOOM!, Take Pride in America, and The Home Depot, featuring construction of Playground of Hope in southeast Washington, D.C. (NAID 5615746).



Left: Section of the petition with the names of some of the 443 African American soldiers seeking the right to burial in the Soldiers' Cemetery at Alexandria, Virginia during the Civil War. (National Archives)

See "Black History Month" cont'd on page 4

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## The **FEDERALIST**

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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### Published Quarterly

The Society is a national professional organization open to all who are interested in federal history programs. Annual membership is \$55, \$35 students, and \$100 for 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 [www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org).

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

Joel Christenson

Mark your calendars! The Society's 2023 Annual Meeting is set for Thursday, June 1st and Friday, June 2nd at the National

Archives building (Archives I) in Washington, DC.

This year's meeting, with the theme "Federal History 2.0," will give our community the opportunity to take stock of the many ways in which our work—the nature of it, and the ways we've gotten it done—has changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For significant chunks of the past three years federal historians had to write, edit, and publish with either no access or extremely limited access to archives. Archivists had to confront a generational spike in demand for digitized records, with little to no growth in resources. Curators, preservation specialists, and other museum professionals had to deal with complete closures, and since reopening, have had to fundamentally rethink the in-person visitor experience they offer in order to accommodate evolving public health guidance. Declassification processes dependent on in-person review were necessarily stalled during lockdown, with effects that continue to ripple throughout the historical profession. And records management professionals who were already charting the path toward a digital future when the pandemic hit had to suddenly figure out what a massive shift to remote

working meant for the capture, preservation, and retirement of the current era's historical records. And the list goes on.

Whether inside or outside the federal government, we've all wrestled with these issues directly or indirectly—and all too often, we've had to wrestle with them in isolation. We've had to dig into our own energy reserves and find new stores of resiliency. At this year's annual meeting, we can bring all of our questions, our insights, our frustrations, and most importantly, our ideas for the future, together for discussion. The Annual Meeting Call for Papers will go out soon. When it does, please consider organizing a panel or a roundtable discussion on the challenges you, and your organization, have faced over the past three years. What solutions have you thought about, or implemented? Was your organization's management framework nimble enough to handle all the changes COVID-19 threw at the workforce? If it wasn't initially, has it adapted successfully since, or not? From where you sit, why or why not?

The Society exists to address the professional needs of its members and serve the interests of those engaged in or with the work of federal history. After three years of immense churn, now it's time to come together, to take stock, and to process where we've been and where we're going. Reach out to friends and colleagues you've commiserated with from other organizations since 2020. Consider putting in a proposal. And please, plan to come to the Annual Meeting. I look forward to seeing you there!

Joel Christenson

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## FEATURE YOUR PROJECT!

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

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

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

## Editor's Note

This issue of *The Federalist* starts by highlighting programs relating to Black History Month. We plan to focus on different heritage months in future issues, including Women's, Asian-American and Pacific Islander, Latinx, and Native-American. Each quarter, *The Federalist* editors will put out a call for information on your agency's efforts for upcoming issues. Please be thinking of submissions related to Asian-American and Pacific Islander Month for the Spring 2023 issue.

On page 2, SHFG President Joel Christenson explains the theme of the 2023 SHFG conference, "Federal History 2.0." Please make time to present a paper or attend on June 1-2, 2023, at the National Archives in Washington.

In this issue's History Professional feature, Glen Asner, Deputy Chief Historian for the Historical Office, Office of the Secretary of Defense, interviews Elliott V. Converse III about his successful career researching and writing about the history of the United States military. His most recent book is detailed in the Recent Publications section of this issue. Xiomáro, an Artist in Residence for the National Park Service, looks at the role of photography in "Fine Art Photography as an Innovative Medium for Conveying History to the Public." Jake Kobrick, Associate Historian at the Federal Judicial Center, combines two of America's favorite pastimes—sports and lawsuits—in his "Baseball's Reserve Clause and the 'Antitrust Exemption.'"

SHFG members might wish to contribute to a new journal. *Home Front Studies* will publish "scholarly research whose focus is the context of the home front, broadly considered, in times of war, civil war, and similar conflicts." A detailed announcement is in this issue. See also the NASA announcement of a new publication, *A History of Near-Earth Objects Research*.

As usual, the issue includes the calendar of upcoming conferences and notices of three new publications from the Department of Defense, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Judiciary Center. The Making History feature offers announcements from NASA, NARA, the Veterans Administration and other key players in the federal history field. In particular, historians might be interested in the NARA announcement regarding the management of the George W. Bush Presidential Library.

We need your help! Please send announcements of upcoming events, recent publications, or new programs to us at [shfgfederalist@gmail.com](mailto:shfgfederalist@gmail.com). We also welcome your thoughts on short articles to include in *The Federalist*.

## Federal History 2022

### IS NOW AVAILABLE

The 2022 issue of *Federal History* is now available at <http://www.shfg.org/page-18363>. Print copies are sent to SHFG members.

Contents include:

The Roger R. Trask Lecture by Arnita Jones

Articles:

- The First Federal Debate over Slavery and Race, 1790
- Aircraft Patent Issues and the 1926 Air Commerce Act
- Richard Nixon and the President's Environmental Merit Awards Program
- U.S. Military Response to Haiti Earthquake Relief, 2010

Features:

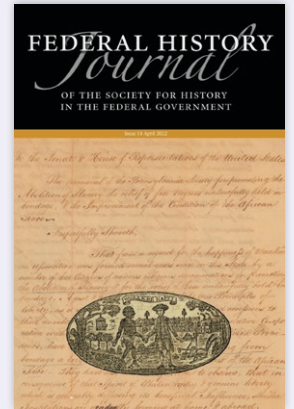
- Interview with Kelly J. Shannon, U.S. Policy & Muslim Women's Human Rights
- Roundtable on *From Selma to Moscow* by Sarah B. Snyder

*Federal History* is a peer-reviewed, open-access journal published annually online and in print. The journal promotes scholarship on all aspects of the history and operations of the U.S. federal government, and of critical historical interactions between American society and the government, including the U.S. military, 1776 to the present.

Past issues and information on submissions at [www.shfg.org](http://www.shfg.org)

Contact: [federalhistory@gmail.com](mailto:federalhistory@gmail.com)

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## Join H-Fed Hist

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*“Black History Month” from page 1*

in the city’s Soldiers’ Cemetery, one of the first national cemeteries established by the U.S. government during the Civil War. To accompany the petition, the aggrieved soldiers included their names—443 in total—arranged by hospital ward and pasted together into a single roll that stretched nearly ten feet in length when unfolded.

Alexandria’s proximity to the nation’s capital, along with its railroads and Potomac River access, made it a key strategic military center and a place of sanctuary for those who had escaped slavery. The Union Army quickly occupied the city after Virginia seceded and it became the hub from which food, ammunition, forage, and soldiers traveled to Virginia battlefields. It also became a hospital center for sick and wounded soldiers from those battlefields. Numerous “contrabands”—the U.S. government’s designation for formerly enslaved African Americans who took refuge behind Union lines—congregated in the city as well. Black Union soldiers became a presence after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, permitting the War Department to enlist African Americans without restriction in USCT regiments.

Much of the military activity in Alexandria centered around the Army’s Quartermaster Department, which was responsible for moving and supplying troops. Brevet Colonel James C. Lee supervised Alexandria’s quartermaster activities from 1863 to 1866. One of his duties was overseeing the burial of military dead in the area. Albert Gladwin, a White Baptist minister from the North who served as Superintendent of Contrabands in the city, worked concurrently with the military. Gladwin established the Contraband and Freedmen’s Cemetery to bury African Americans who died, largely from disease contracted in overcrowded and unsanitary living conditions.

Control between the military and Contraband Administration blurred with the arrival of the USCT. Quartermaster Lee set aside a plot in the Soldiers’ Cemetery for Black soldiers and some were buried there. Gladwin, however, felt that these dead were his responsibility and he proceeded to bury about 120 in his cemetery. The issue of where these men should be interred came to a head when hospitalized soldiers in the USCT made known that they would only escort their dead for burial in the military cemetery. The following day, Gladwin posted guards at the gates of the military cemetery, stopped a Black burial escort, arrested its hearse driver, and diverted the body to the Contraband and Freedmen’s Cemetery. That night, African American soldiers created their petition, which was forwarded to Colonel Lee. They presented their case in stirring language that still possesses the power to move:

*We are not contrabands, but soldiers of the U.S. Army, we have cheerfully left the comforts of home, and entered into the field of conflict, fighting side by side with the white soldiers, to crush out this God insulting, Hell deserving rebellion. As American citizens, we have a right to fight for the protection of her flag, that right is granted, and we are now sharing equally the dangers and hardships in this mighty contest, and should share the same*

*privileges and rights of burial in every way with our fellow soldiers who only differ from us in color.*

The authority for resolving the dispute rested with Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs. Lee wrote to Meigs that “the feeling on the part of the colored soldiers is unanimous to be placed in the military cemetery and it seems but just and right that they should be.” Meigs wholeheartedly agreed. He ordered all Black soldiers to be buried in the military cemetery and had those already in the segregated cemetery reinterred so they could be laid to rest alongside their comrades in arms of either color. Gladwin was removed from his position two weeks later.

**National Museum of the U.S. Army**

History Talk - “We Return Fighting”:  
The Harlem Hellfighters in World War I  
*February 8, 15, and 22 at 12 p.m.*



From the Revolutionary War and through the present day, African Americans have proudly served the U.S. Army, many serving in segregated units and not always given the respect and honor due to them.

On December 27, 1918, the 369th Infantry Regiment docked in Brest, France. The all-Black regiment, comprised of men from Harlem, New York and surrounding cities, were assigned to the Service of Supplies – unloading ships and building roads and railroads. Three months later, the regiment was transferred to the French Army where they were given a position on the frontlines and earned a new nickname: “Hellfighters.” In the 191 days the men spent on the front lines no ground was lost and no man was captured. Their actions earned them accolades in France and they were celebrated on their return to the United States.

In this History Talk, explore the commitment, challenges, and bravery of the Harlem Hellfighters. Learn how their actions, along with the thousands of other Black World War I veterans, contributed to the Allied victory. Examine the legacy of their service and its impact on the civil rights movement.

Book Talk - *Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad* by Matthew F. Delmont.

*February 16 at 7 p.m.*

Over one million Black men and women served in the American military in World War II. They were at Normandy, Iwo Jima, and the Battle of the Bulge, serving in segregated units and performing unheralded but vital support jobs, only to be denied housing and educational opportunities on their return home. Without their contributions to the war effort, the United States could not have won the war. And yet the stories of these Black veterans have long been ignored in favor of the myth of the “Good War” fought by the “Greatest Generation.”

*Half American* is American history as you’ve likely never read

it before. The book outlines stories of Black heroes such as Thurgood Marshall, the chief lawyer for the NAACP, who investigated and publicized violence against Black troops and veterans; Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., leader of the Tuskegee Airmen, who was at the forefront of the years-long fight to open the Air Force to Black pilots; Ella Baker, the civil rights leader who advocated on the home front for Black Soldiers, veterans, and their families; James Thompson, the 26-year-old whose letter to a newspaper laying bare the hypocrisy of fighting against fascism abroad when racism still reigned at home set in motion the Double Victory campaign; and poet Langston Hughes, who worked as a war correspondent for the Black press. Their bravery and patriotism in the face of unfathomable racism is both inspiring and galvanizing.

Dr. Matthew Delmont is the Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Professor of History at Dartmouth. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Public Scholar Award to support his recent research. He is also the author of several previous books, including *Black Quotidian: Everyday History in African American Newspapers* (2019); *Making Roots: A Nation Captivated* (2016); and *Why Busing Failed: Race, Media, and the National Resistance to School Desegregation* (2016). Originally from Minneapolis, Minnesota, he earned his B.A. from Harvard University and MA and Ph.D. from Brown University.

Register for both programs at [www.thenmusa.org/events](http://www.thenmusa.org/events)

### Office of Art and Archives, US House of Representatives

Art, Archives and History at the US House of Representatives put together a whole slew of material for the 150th anniversary of Joseph Rainey election as the first Black Representative in the House.

*Joseph H. Rainey: 150 Years of Black Americans Elected to Congress*

Joseph Rainey of South Carolina embarked on his remarkable House career in December 1870: he became the first African-American Representative, the first Black man to preside over the House, and the longest-serving African American during the tumultuous Reconstruction period. Rainey and his nineteenth-century colleagues blazed a path followed by more than 160 Black Members to date—despite the barriers thrown up by the legacy of slavery and the rise of Jim Crow. To celebrate Rainey’s milestone, this page provides ready access to teaching materials, oral histories, biographies, documents, artifacts, that tell the 150-year history of African Americans in Congress.



*The Long Struggle for Representation: Oral Histories of African Americans in Congress*

To commemorate Joseph Rainey’s election, the Office of the Historian has conducted oral histories with African-American

Members, staff, and family. The interviews in this ongoing project provide firsthand accounts of the African-American experience on Capitol Hill since the 1950s—a period of dramatic change when Black Members were able to build seniority, shape legislation, and secure leadership positions.

### *Black Americans in Congress, 1870–2019*

Since 1870, when Senator Hiram Revels of Mississippi and Joseph Rainey of South Carolina became the first African Americans to serve in Congress, more than 160 African Americans have served as U.S. Representatives, Senators, or Delegates. This web publication is based on the book, *Black Americans in Congress, 1870–2019*.

See [history.house.gov/Exhibitions-and-Publications/BAIC/Joseph-Rainey-150-Years/](http://history.house.gov/Exhibitions-and-Publications/BAIC/Joseph-Rainey-150-Years/).

### National Park Service

28 Days of Black History. In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson began a weeklong celebration that has since grown into an entire month dedicated to remembering the achievements, contributions, resilience, and legacies of Black Americans at a time when it was not commonly taught. In celebration of Black History Month, explore people, places, and stories from more than 400 national parks and communities across the country through National Park Service programs and partners and keep exploring African American heritage throughout the year. See the website at [www.nps.gov/articles/000/28-days-of-black-history.htm](http://www.nps.gov/articles/000/28-days-of-black-history.htm).

### National Museum of African American History & Culture

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture’s Searchable Museum is a key resource for anyone wishing to learn more about the museum’s historical narratives, collections and educational resources. Of particular use is the “How We Know What We Know” section, which details how various academic disciplines and types of evidence can help us understand the history of African Americans. The Searchable Museum is found at [www.searchablemuseum.com](http://www.searchablemuseum.com).

*Historically Speaking* is a series of interview with experts from diverse fields, often moderated by esteemed journalists and cultural critics. The program often highlights authors who have written new and meaningful contemporary and historical fiction and nonfiction works.

Previous programs have examined important leaders like James Baldwin, Pauli Murray, Thurgood Marshall, Susan Rice, Tommy Davidson, Alice Walker, and our own Secretary Lonnie Bunch. Others programs have discussed topics including the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, gentrification, the March on Washington, the removal of Confederate monuments, and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the African American community.

## The History Professional *An Interview with Elliott V. Converse III*

*During a professional career of more than fifty years, Dr. Elliott Converse has held a variety of positions in history-related programs within the Department of Defense. While in the Air Force from 1967 to 1992, he was a faculty member in the Department of History at the Air Force Academy and at the Air War College; the executive officer to the Chief, Office of Air Force History; and finally, commander of the Air Force Historical Research Agency. After retiring from military service, he taught again at the Air Force Academy and for two decades was a contractor, consultant, and lead historian on the multivolume Defense Acquisition History Project managed initially by the U.S. Army Center of Military History and then by the Historical Office of the Secretary of Defense. He is the author or coauthor of several books on military history and holds degrees in history from Princeton, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Montana State University.*



*Elliott V. Converse III*

*Interview by Glen Asner, Deputy Chief Historian for the Historical Office, Office of the Secretary of Defense*

### **At what point in your life did you become interested in history? What aspect of it drew you in?**

I know with certainty when history first attracted me. In the mid-1950s we lived in Coronado, California. My father was a Navy officer and at sea much of the time. In the city park a block from our house was a children's library. There I discovered the Landmark series of books on significant people and events in history. Although I didn't know it then, well-known writers and historians wrote many of them, including Daniel Boorstin, Pearl S. Buck, C. S. Forester, MacKinlay Kantor, William Shirer, and Robert Penn Warren. The drama of history fascinated me. I was hooked—for life as it turned out. That was fortuitous because, as school was beginning to reveal, I wasn't any good at math.

### **Who among your history professors most impressed and influenced you?**

When I was an undergraduate history major at Montana State University in the mid-1960s, the example set by two faculty members inspired me. Pierce Mullen taught what was at least for me a difficult one-year course in the history of science (I pretty much got lost in the history of twentieth century physics). Mullen not only commanded the historical landscape of his field, but also that of several others. Alton Oviatt, who headed the department and taught American history, was a polished and captivating lecturer. No one ever made a sound in any of his lectures that I attended, except when he made everyone laugh loudly with a humorous story from the American past. I liked what I saw in these two men and hoped to become a historian someday. At commencement in June 1967, I sat next to Steve Oviatt, one of Al's sons. We were friends, were both history majors, and had been commissioned second lieutenants that morning, he in the Army and I in the Air Force. Steve, an infantry platoon leader, was killed by enemy mortar fire in Vietnam less than a year and a half later. I have thought of him often, not just on Memorial Day. He did not have the chance to live his life; I wanted to make the most of mine.

The Air Force gave me the opportunity to become a historian by sending me to graduate school, first at the University of Wisconsin and then at Princeton. I attended Wisconsin in 1971-1972. Those were tense times on the Madison campus with students frequently protesting the Vietnam War. One day, while sitting on the steps of the Wisconsin Historical Society library, I watched a large crowd of students form themselves into what they called affinity groups and begin to march to the state capitol, just a few blocks east. Later in the day, authorities at the capitol dispersed them with tear gas; its use was so heavy and widespread that on campus the next day its residue irritated the eyes. Edward "Mac" Coffman, one of the country's top military historians, was my advisor. In addition to teaching me how to study military history, he corrected an embarrassing flaw in my writing—overuse of the passive voice. Mac had once been a newspaper reporter and knew how to tell a story. In doing research for one of his books on World War I, he interviewed General Douglas MacArthur. Mac's account of that encounter is unforgettable. The interview took place in MacArthur's apartment in New York City. When the door opened, the great man greeted Mac in silk dressing gown and pajamas! Soft-spoken John DeNovo taught the history of American foreign relations. Under his guidance in a research seminar, I wrote a paper on U.S. military planning during and just after World War II for a system of postwar overseas military bases. This subject, with its conjuncture of the military and the geopolitical, would become my doctoral dissertation at Princeton.

At Princeton from 1975 to 1977, I benefited from the deep learning of two exceptional scholars, Cyril Black and Robert Darnton. Black, a specialist in Russian and Soviet history, led a seminar on modern Russian history. As distinguished in personal bearing and appearance as was his scholarship, he encouraged us to seek the "big generalization." He knew what he was talking about. His pioneering studies in the analysis of modernizing societies are full of broad generalizations. Darnton specialized in 18th century French history, particularly the influence of popular culture and underground literature. His

seminar on the Old Regime and the Revolution stands as the single most intellectually stimulating experience of my life. In the mid-1970s, historians were fracturing the traditional interpretation of the origins of the French Revolution as a struggle between a rising middle class challenging an entrenched aristocracy of birth and its institutions. Thanks to Darnton we were well read in the revolution's historiography and our seminar discussions were always lively.

**You began researching and writing history long before the personal computer and the internet. What was it like to practice the historian's craft without them?**

When I entered graduate school, my research and writing tools were closer in capability to those possessed by monastic scribes than those available to scholars starting out today. I conducted most of my research in the university library. I found it plundered—books missing from shelves and articles ripped from journals. Bookstores rarely carried the books I needed. Microfilm was sometimes at hand, but the sources contained on microfilm rolls were limited and viewing them for long periods was hard on the eyes. I laboriously took notes in pencil from sources on index cards in the manner taught in methods courses. Although Xerox machines were around, they were in short supply and often out of paper or otherwise broken down.

Today, historians rely largely on electronic sources for research. DoD history offices have made their publications, including collections of documents, available for free download on their websites. Commercial websites carry used books and back issues of journal articles can often be obtained online. Archives, including the National Archives, are increasingly placing historical materials online. The Air Force Historical Research Agency, which provided documents to researchers on microfilm, now also offers them on CDs through its website.

Leaving aside the intellectual struggle involved in transforming research into coherent and meaningful narrative (which has not changed at all in difficulty over time), the mechanics of writing fifty years ago were an exhausting chore. I drafted a paper in pencil on a yellow legal tablet and then typed it on an Olympia portable typewriter. I typed all of my graduate school papers and the initial draft of my doctoral dissertation on this machine. When it came to the dissertation that meant sore fingertips. Putting footnotes at the bottom of the page was an especially vexing problem. If I misjudged the space required for the footnotes, then I had to retype the entire page. A burst of expletives usually followed such a miscalculation. It wasn't possible to edit on a typewriter. I had to make changes on the pencil draft before typing began. The typewriter's limitations and the time required to prepare another draft worked against multiple drafts. If I found errors when the paper was finished, I made corrections with whiteout and ballpoint pen. I did not copy the paper on a Xerox machine but instead used carbon paper, each page inevitably marred with purple smudges.

It's hardly possible to overestimate the impact of the

personal computer on this archaic process. Compared to a typewriter, a computer operates at lightning speed. It eliminates all of the problems with writing I have described: editing takes place directly on the machine; successive drafts are stored for future reference; footnotes appear unerringly at the bottom of a page; and copies are made quickly and cheaply on a printer tied electronically to the computer. Accustomed to drafting papers on yellow legal tablets, I was reluctant to leap into the new world of composing on the computer. Finally I did. And I place mastering this skill right up there in importance with marriage, birth of children, key promotions, and receiving a marginal pass on the German language exam in graduate school. When used in conjunction with the internet, which makes it possible for colleagues separated by distance to exchange detailed comments on manuscripts rapidly, the personal computer has undoubtedly increased the quantity of historical writing and arguably raised its quality.

**Given the extent and length of your experience with history programs in the Department of Defense, I am interested in your observations on changes that have taken place in those programs. To begin, what change most stands out to you?**

To me the most important and far-reaching development has been expansion in the diversity of people who make up and lead those programs.

In late 1972 as a young captain just out of graduate school, I reported to the Department of History at the Air Force Academy. Recently, I looked at the department's group picture for 1973. It shows thirty officers in uniform, including one Army officer, and one black officer, but no women and no civilians. The makeup of the department's faculty today is dramatically different. In 2022, the department has twenty-five members. Slightly more than half are civilians. There are several women and several racial and ethnic minorities. The sharp contrast in the department's composition reflects in microcosm the increase in diversity that has occurred in professions in American society since the 1970s.

The leadership of Defense Department history programs has also grown more diverse. Civilians began to replace active-duty officers in the top posts of the military services' programs. In 1981, the Air Force chose Dr. Richard Kohn to be Chief of the Office of Air Force History and Chief Historian of the Air Force. From 1969 to 1981, a general officer (sometimes recalled to active duty) had headed the Air Force program. While it's true that a civilian directed the program prior to 1969, he did not occupy a high-level staff position at Air Force Headquarters nor, except for two years following the establishment of an independent Air Force in 1947, was he physically located in Washington, D.C. In the Navy, the first civilian to lead its historical program was Dr. Ronald Spector, named the Director of Naval History in 1986. In 2006, Dr. Jeffrey Clarke, the Army's chief historian, became Chief of Military History

and Director of the Center of Military History. Until that time, an active-duty general officer had always run that service's program. In the same year, the Marine Corps installed its first permanent civilian director of Marine Corps history, Dr. Charles Neimeyer. Although it took longer, women also began to lead historical programs. In 2010, Dr. Erin Mahan was the first woman to become permanent head of the OSD Historical Office. Beginning in 2003, Col. Carol Sikes was the first woman to command the Air Force Historical Research Agency. Last year, two women uniformed officers chaired the Air Force Academy and Military Academy history departments—Col. Meg Martin at the Air Force Academy and Col. Gail Yoshitani at West Point. Today, a civilian, Dr. Tom McCarthy, chairs the Naval Academy History Department. Indeed, civilians have long outnumbered uniformed officers on that faculty.

### **How have the products of Defense Department historical programs changed over the years?**

Following their publication from the late 1940s through the early 1960s, the services' histories of their operations in World War II—the Army's 75-plus volume "Green Book" series, Samuel Eliot Morison's 15 volumes on the Navy, and Wesley Frank Craven's and James Lea Cate's 7 volumes on the Army Air Forces—were the exemplars for DoD history programs. The OSD Historical Office followed those models in its Secretaries of Defense series. That office's History of Acquisition in the Department of Defense series is very much in the same mold. These works have common characteristics: they are lengthy—usually several hundred, even a thousand pages long; they are heavily footnoted, demonstrating in-depth research in primary sources; and they have taken many years to complete, sometimes a decade or more. However, the books have appealed primarily to the academic community, particularly to military historians. In an effort to reach a wider audience, DoD history offices began publishing much shorter studies, usually attractively illustrated and often in pamphlet form. While still maintaining high standards of scholarship, they did not look like the traditional scholarly tomes with copious footnotes and extensive bibliographies. Many have been published since 2000. Examples are the Air Force History and Museums Program's series commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean War; the Center of Military History's brochures memorializing the 75th anniversary of the Army's World War II campaigns; the Naval History and Heritage Command's booklets covering the Navy and the Vietnam War; and the OSD Historical Office's Cold War Foreign Policy series. With a few exceptions, these softcover publications average between 30 and 50 pages in length.

### **In retrospect, how do you assess history's place in the Air Force during the course of your professional career?**

During my 25 years in uniform, I found that my service highly valued history. It was solidly established in the curricula

of the Air Force Academy and the Air Force's professional military education schools and colleges. In the Academy's core curriculum of the 30 or so courses required of all cadets in the 1970s and 1980s, 2 1/2 were history courses—military history, world history, and a half-semester course in American history. Military history had obvious value. World history was important as it supported the Air Force's global mission. In the late 1960s and 1970s, the Air Force Academy History Department was among the pioneers developing courses in world history. At that time, most colleges and universities offered courses in the history of Western civilization. Since there were no satisfactory texts on world history, the History Department faculty wrote its own. The department also hosted an internationally recognized biennial military history symposium and sponsored the Academy's annual Harmon Memorial Lecture in Military History featuring a prominent historian. History was also a central feature of the Air War College's curriculum. While on its faculty in the late 1980s, I was one of the instructors in the Military Strategy Analysis course based almost entirely on historical case studies.

By the early 1990s, the Air Force historical program, with field offices located at Air Force major commands in the U.S. and overseas, enjoyed a high level of institutional support and productivity. The chief of the Office of Air Force History reported directly to the assistant vice chief of staff of the Air Force; the office had published numerous volumes on Air Force operations during the Vietnam War; and the service had funded construction of a modern facility for the Air Force Historical Research Agency. With the defense drawdown that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Gulf War, Air Force and other DoD history programs experienced budget and personnel cuts. In part to compensate for staff reductions, history offices increasingly turned to contractors to write their histories. For example, after retiring from the Air Force, Dr. David Spires authored four major volumes and a documentary collection on airpower and space history, published between 2002 and 2022, on contract with the Office of Air Force History and the Air Force Space Command's (now Space Force's) history office. Similarly, the OSD Historical Office has worked with contract historians to produce the volumes in the acquisition history series. Despite the vagaries of budget and organizational alignments that have resulted in ups and downs for DoD history programs, history's future in the Defense Department is secure. At least as early as the mid-nineteenth century when Helmuth von Moltke the Elder, chief of the Prussian General Staff, introduced the staff ride into officer training, armed forces have recognized that the study of history holds valuable lessons for the profession of arms.



## Baseball's Reserve Clause and the "Antitrust Exemption"

By Jake Kobrick, Associate Historian, Federal Judicial Center

In December 2021, upon the expiration of the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between Major League Baseball (MLB) and the Major League Baseball Players' Association (MLBPA), MLB owners voted unanimously for a lockout, beginning the ninth work stoppage in MLB history. With the upcoming season in jeopardy, the lockout ended on March 10, 2022, as the sides resolved their differences and signed a new CBA. While all the sport's previous work stoppages—beginning with a 1972 players' strike—have occurred in the last half-century, labor disputes between professional baseball players and team owners have been a near constant since the advent of the sport.

This spotlight will explore two areas of controversy between players and owners that frequently brought baseball into the federal courts between the late nineteenth and late twentieth centuries: the enforceability of a standard contract provision known as the "reserve clause," and the related question of whether professional baseball was governed by federal antitrust laws. The resolution of these issues played a major role in shaping the "national pastime," particularly in determining the balance of power between players and their employers.

From the earliest days of professional baseball in the 1870s until the creation of free agency in the 1970s, the reserve clause was a subject of controversy (as it became in other American professional sports leagues established in the twentieth century). The clause, first implemented by the National League after its fourth season in 1879, provided in essence that a team was entitled to reserve the services of a player in perpetuity. When a player's contract expired, the team for which he played had the exclusive right to negotiate with him for a new contract. The player had little bargaining power, for his only alternative to reaching agreement with his team was not to play. The team to which the player was bound could also trade him or sell his contract to another team without his consent. By forbidding the voluntary movement of players to other teams, the reserve clause kept salaries artificially low and gave players no say over where they performed their work. Team owners justified the clause on the grounds that without it, the wealthiest teams would sign all the best players, destroying competitive balance and ruining the sport. At first, a league rule (which every player contract incorporated by reference) allowed each team to reserve five players of its choosing. By 1887, the reserve clause appeared explicitly in player contracts and permitted a team to reserve its entire roster, then consisting of fourteen players.

Because the reserve clause was adopted by the mutual agreement of all teams, National League teams did not have to worry about losing their players to intraleague rivals. Friction with the rival American Association, a league existing from 1882 to 1891, was avoided with an 1883 "National Agreement" that prohibited the poaching of players subject to the reserve clause in either

league. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, however, the professional baseball landscape was in constant flux. New leagues formed frequently, although most of them folded just as quickly. Some minor leagues—which did not field teams in the nation's largest cities—attempted to expand to compete on the major league level. Wanting to draw fans to their ballparks with highly skilled, established players, teams in fledgling leagues often tried to lure away National League players by offering higher salaries. When the National League sued players to prevent them from switching teams, both state and federal courts generally found the reserve clause too indefinite to be enforceable under basic principles of contract law.

Although the Players' League folded quickly, the minor Western League rebranded itself as the American League and declared itself a major league, putting itself into competition with the National League beginning with the 1901 season. Once more, National League teams were faced with the prospect of having top players lured away by a rival league, and further litigation ensued.

### ***Brooklyn Baseball Club v. McGuire* (U.S. Circuit Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1902)**

In *McGuire*, a federal court in Pennsylvania refused to prevent Deacon McGuire from jumping from the National League's Brooklyn Superbas (later called the Dodgers) to the American League's Detroit Tigers. In denying a preliminary injunction to enforce the reserve clause in McGuire's contract, Judge George Dallas pointed to the provision, standard in baseball contracts, that allowed the team to terminate the contract with ten days' notice. Judge Dallas applied an 1870 Supreme Court decision denying a request for specific performance on the grounds of lack of mutuality when one party was entitled to abandon the contract with a year's notice. Moreover, Dallas held that the plaintiff had not proven that McGuire's services were so unique that the team could not adequately be compensated by monetary damages rather than the court order they had requested to keep *McGuire* from playing for the Tigers. The *McGuire* case continued the tendency of the federal courts to view the reserve clause with skepticism.

The same year *McGuire* was decided, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court became the first court to hold the reserve clause enforceable, in a case involving star player Napoleon Lajoie. Nevertheless, with most decisions going the other way, the National League in 1903 made a second National Agreement, this time with the American League. The agreement began a partnership between the two leagues that continued until they formally merged into a single organization in 2000. In addition to creating

the World Series, the agreement provided for mutual respect of the reserve clause, avoiding litigation and ensuring that teams in both leagues would retain control over their players

The 1903 agreement removed the reserve clause issue from the courts for a decade, but the arrival on the scene of the Federal League in 1913 resulted in its resuscitation. The Federal League was founded as a minor league, but its owners soon decided to establish it as a third major league, which would require it to compete for the most talented players with the American and National Leagues. Predictably, once Federal League teams began offering higher salaries to star players, the established leagues threatened to seek injunctions to avoid having their top players lured away. The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan continued the general trend of finding the reserve clause unenforceable in *Weeghman v. Killefer* (1914), a case between the Federal League team in Chicago and the National League's Philadelphia Phillies, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit affirmed. Despite the decision in favor of the Federal League, its owners were wary of the time and expense that would be required to litigate each case—which there were sure to be many—individually. As a result, the upstart league decided on a more aggressive strategy: to have major league baseball declared an illegal monopoly in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890. The strategy rested on the theory that the reserve clause, by forbidding players to sell their services to the highest bidder on the open market even after the expiration of their contracts, was an unlawful restraint of trade. If successful, this gambit would dissolve every player contract, freeing players to sign with any team, in any league, they wished.

The Federal League's suit was settled without a judicial resolution, but out of that settlement arose a 1922 opinion in which the Supreme Court of the United States declared that baseball was not interstate commerce and therefore not subject to federal antitrust laws. The first Supreme Court ruling regarding organized baseball and the antitrust laws spawned decades of controversy.

***Federal Baseball Club of Baltimore v. National League of Professional Baseball Clubs* (Supreme Court of the United States, 1922)**

While the Supreme Court's decision in *Federal Baseball Club* is often characterized as creating baseball's antitrust exemption, the case created no special exemption. To the contrary, the Court held that professional baseball was neither interstate nor commerce and was therefore outside the scope of the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890.

The owners of the Federal League's Baltimore Terrapins were offered \$50,000 to dissolve their team as part of the 1916 settlement of the league's lawsuit but turned it down. Not motivated by money, they remained focused on putting a major league baseball team in Baltimore. The owners of the American and National League teams refused, however, believing that major league baseball in Baltimore would be a financial failure. The following year, the Terrapins' owners

filed suit against the American and National Leagues and their member clubs, alleging that they had conspired to monopolize the business of professional baseball. After a 1919 trial, Justice Wendell Phillips Stafford of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia (now the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia) ruled baseball an illegal monopoly. The jury awarded the Baltimore club \$80,000 in damages, which became \$240,000 under the Sherman Act's treble damages provision.

On appeal, the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia (now the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit) reversed the judgment on the grounds that baseball did not constitute interstate commerce and was therefore outside the scope of the Sherman Act. The case then proceeded to the Supreme Court, which affirmed the appellate court's ruling in 1922. "The business," wrote Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes in the Court's majority opinion, "is giving exhibitions of base ball, which are purely state affairs." The interstate travel that was necessary to facilitate the games, Justice Holmes continued, was incidental to the games themselves, which occurred in a single location. Moreover, because the product being sold was the personal effort of the players, and not a commodity, the games "would not be called trade or commerce in the commonly accepted use of those words." Justice Holmes' opinion was subjected to criticism, both immediately and for decades afterwards, by those who believed that the Court misunderstood the nature of professional baseball or had engaged in sophistry to protect it.

As the business of baseball continued to grow, and its games were broadcast throughout the country, first on radio and later on television, the Court's decision was increasingly seen as dubious. By the 1950s, it was difficult for anyone to deny that baseball had become interstate commerce, even if it had not been earlier. Two prominent judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit suggested as much in a 1949 case.

***Gardella v. Chandler* (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, 1949)**

Danny Gardella played for the New York Giants of the National League in 1944–1945 before leaving to play professional baseball in Mexico. Because he had been under contract to play exclusively for the Giants, he was barred for several years from returning to the major leagues in the United States. Gardella sued the Giants and the National League, alleging that they had deprived him of his livelihood and monopolized baseball in violation of the Sherman and Clayton Antitrust Acts. The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York dismissed the complaint, holding that it lacked jurisdiction over the case in accordance with the Supreme Court's decision in *Federal Baseball Club*.

However, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second

Circuit voted 2-1 to remand the case to the district court for trial. Judge Harrie Chase voted to affirm the district court's ruling, believing *Federal Baseball Club* required that result. Judge Chase added that even if *Federal Baseball Club* was distinguishable from the case at hand, Gardella's services as a baseball player were not items of trade or commerce under the antitrust laws. Judges Learned Hand and Jerome Frank disagreed, however, on the grounds that circumstances had changed since 1922. Judge Frank believed that television and radio broadcasting of baseball games was an essential part of the business and sufficient reason to deem baseball interstate commerce. Judge Hand tentatively agreed but felt this was a factual matter that should be resolved at trial.

Baseball officials decided not to appeal the court's ruling to the Supreme Court for fear that *Federal Baseball Club* would be overturned. *Gardella* received a settlement, and the suspensions of other players who had jumped to the Mexican League were rescinded. *Gardella* was the first case in which a federal court suggested that professional baseball might be subject to the antitrust laws.

There was much at stake when the Supreme Court next had an opportunity to review its earlier decision in *Federal Baseball Club*—a decision many considered outmoded. A Court ruling that the 1922 case was decided wrongly could open baseball to thirty years of retroactive antitrust liability, potentially threatening the viability of the sport. To the relief of professional baseball owners, the Court left it to Congress to decide whether or not professional baseball would be subject to federal antitrust laws. Even if Congress were to pass legislation, it would apply only prospectively, and baseball would not suffer harm for having relied on the earlier Court decision.

### ***Toolson v. New York Yankees (Supreme Court of the United States, 1953)***

*Toolson*, decided more than thirty years after *Federal Baseball Club*, is the Supreme Court decision that can properly be described as carving out from the antitrust laws an "exemption" for professional baseball. George Toolson was a pitcher for a minor league team in Newark, New Jersey, that was affiliated with the New York Yankees. When the Yankees assigned Toolson to a lower-level team in Binghamton, New York, he refused to report. Pursuant to the terms of his contract, the Yankees then declared him ineligible to play professional baseball. Toolson sued the Yankees, claiming that they were violating the antitrust laws by refusing to let him play for another team.

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California dismissed the case, ruling in accordance with *Federal Baseball Club* that baseball was not subject to the antitrust laws. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed after which Toolson was argued before the Supreme Court along with two similar cases. The Court



*Baseball commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis.*  
Source: Library of Congress

affirmed the ruling below on the authority of *Federal Baseball Club* "so far as that decision determines that Congress had no intention of including the business of baseball within the scope of the federal antitrust laws." Some criticized the ruling as ascribing to the *Federal Baseball Club* decision a proposition that Justice Holmes had not expressed in his opinion. On the contrary, critics asserted, Holmes had written that because baseball did not constitute interstate commerce, Congress had no authority to regulate it.

In framing the issue as it did in *Toolson*, the Court based its holding that antitrust laws did not apply to baseball not on the Constitution's Commerce Clause but instead on congressional intent, noting that Congress had been aware of the *Federal Baseball Club* decision for thirty years and had done nothing to counter it. The Court suggested that any change would have to come from Congress: "We think that if there are evils in this field which now warrant application to it of the antitrust laws it should be by legislation."

The Court's rationale, that Congress could have regulated baseball but had chosen not to, was the source of baseball's "exemption" from federal antitrust law. Although Congress

subsequently held hearings on the issue and considered several legislative proposals, it took no action. Baseball remained an anomaly as other major sports were subjected to antitrust litigation throughout the second half of the twentieth century. (Federal court decisions of 1955, 1957, 1971, and 1972 established that antitrust laws applied to professional boxing, football, basketball, and hockey, respectively, despite what many saw as the lack of a meaningful distinction between those enterprises and major league baseball.)

The next major federal court challenge to baseball's antitrust exemption and the reserve clause came in 1972 and while it received a great deal of attention, it resulted in no change in the law. The case, brought by star outfielder Curt Flood, joined *Federal Baseball Club* and *Toolson* to conclude what some have called the Supreme Court's "baseball trilogy."

### ***Flood v. Kuhn* (Supreme Court of the United States, 1972)**

Outfielder Curt Flood of the St. Louis Cardinals was one of major league baseball's best players during the 1960s. In 1969, as Flood neared the end of his career, the Cardinals informed him that they had traded him to the Philadelphia Phillies. Not wishing to go to Philadelphia, Flood appealed to Commissioner Bowie Kuhn to declare him a free agent and allow him to sign a new contract with another team. "After 12 years in the Major Leagues," he wrote, "I do not feel I am a piece of property to be bought and sold irrespective of my wishes." When his request was refused on the basis of baseball's reserve clause, Flood filed an antitrust suit in federal court in New York City, naming Kuhn, the presidents of the American and National Leagues, and all major league teams as defendants. (Flood brought other claims as well, including one for involuntary servitude in violation of the Thirteenth Amendment, which the courts found without merit.)

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York found for the defendants, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit affirmed. In his opinion affirming the Second Circuit, Justice Harry Blackmun acknowledged that baseball was a business operating in interstate commerce, and that the *Federal Baseball Club* and *Toolson* cases "have become an aberration confined to baseball." Nevertheless, he wrote, "[i]t is an aberration that has been with us now for half a century, one heretofore deemed fully entitled to the benefit of *stare decisis*, and one that has survived the Court's expanding concept of interstate commerce. It rests on a recognition of baseball's unique characteristics and needs."

Because Congress had considered several bills regarding the application of the antitrust laws to baseball but never enacted one, Blackmun concluded that legislators still had no intent to alter the result of the earlier baseball cases. And, as the Court had done in *Toolson*, he expressed concern about the retroactive nature of a decision overturning those cases. Justices William Douglas and William Brennan dissented from the Court's ruling, as Douglas called *Federal Baseball*

*Club* "a derelict in the stream of law that we, its creator, should remove." Although Douglas had joined the Court's opinion in *Toolson*, he admitted that he had "lived to regret it" and wished "to correct what I believe to be its fundamental error."

By the time Curt Flood lost his case before the Supreme Court, he had already retired from professional baseball. Within a very short time, however, labor relations between players and owners began to undergo dramatic changes spurred by the recent arrival in baseball of modern labor practices—unionization, collective bargaining, and arbitration. In 1966, players unionized, forming the MLBPA, and in 1968 the union negotiated its first CBA with the owners of the major league franchises. The 1973 CBA vindicated Flood's position that a veteran player should not be traded against his will, providing that a player with ten years of experience who had played with the same team for five years was entitled to veto a trade.

The CBA allowed the MLBPA to file grievances on behalf of players over contract disputes, which would be submitted to arbitration. In 1975, the arbitration process led to the demise of baseball's nearly century-old reserve system. This momentous legal change resulted from an arbitration panel's decision that the reserve clause applied for only one year after the expiration of a contract and not in perpetuity. The federal courts upheld the decision, ushering in a new era in professional baseball.

### ***Kansas City Royals v. Major League Baseball Players Association* (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, 1976)**

In 1975, two pitchers, Andy Messersmith of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Dave McNally of the Montreal Expos, played under 1974 contracts that were renewed pursuant to the reserve clause. At the season's end, both filed grievances claiming that they had no further contractual obligation to their teams and should be considered free agents. The clubs countered that the reserve clause entitled them to renew the players' contracts in perpetuity, not only for one year beyond the contract term, as the players argued.

Pursuant to the CBA then in effect, a panel of three arbitrators—one chosen by the owners, one by the players, and the last agreed upon by the other two—heard the dispute. In December 1975, arbitrator Peter Seitz (a lawyer with broad experience arbitrating labor disputes), the independent member of the panel, broke a tie by ruling in favor of Messersmith and McNally's interpretation of the reserve clause. The owners challenged the award in court, but the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri upheld the panel's ruling, finding that it "draws its essence from the collective bargaining agreement," and ordered that it be enforced. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit affirmed the judgment below. The case established free agency as a prominent feature of major league baseball, the parameters of which became a subject of future CBAs. As of 2022, a team could

renew a player's contract unilaterally only if the player had less than three years of service. After three years, players gained the right to have salary disputes determined by arbitration, and after six years, became entitled to free agency.

After the reserve system was replaced by free agency, several legal disputes hinged on the scope of baseball's antitrust exemption: did it apply only to cases involving the now-dead reserve clause, or to all matters concerning the operations of professional baseball? In the late 1970s, Oakland Athletics owner Charles O. Finley brought an antitrust suit against Commissioner Kuhn for invalidating his sale of three players' contracts to the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees. (Kuhn did so on the grounds that the deals would leave the Athletics too weak to compete effectively and were thus not in the best interests of baseball). In *Charles O. Finley & Co. v. Kuhn* (1978), the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois found for Kuhn on the basis of the baseball exemption. Finley argued that the Supreme Court's decision in *Flood* had limited the antitrust exemption to the reserve clause, but the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit affirmed the district court's ruling, holding that the exemption covered the entire business of baseball. A few later decisions, such as that of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in *Piazza v. Major League Baseball* (1993), were decided in favor of Finley's more narrow interpretation. That case settled before it could be appealed, however,

and the weight of authority continued to rest on the side of a broad exemption.

Baseball experienced an especially contentious players' strike in 1994–1995, resulting in the cancellation of a large part of the 1994 season and, for the first time since 1904, the World Series. When the parties signed a new CBA, ending the dispute, the agreement included a clause providing that MLB and the MLBPA would jointly petition Congress to pass a law specifying that MLB players were protected by the antitrust laws to the same extent as players in other sports. Players wanted assurance that free agency would always have legal protection so that its existence would not be entirely dependent on the collective bargaining process. Owners, who assumed that free agency was a permanent feature of baseball, did not object as long as the statute made clear that it effected no other legal change with respect to baseball's status under the antitrust laws. In 1998, Congress granted the joint request by enacting the Curt Flood Act. The act explicitly excluded from its scope matters relating to minor league teams and players; franchise expansion, relocation, and ownership; broadcasting; umpires; and the conduct of people not directly employed in major league baseball. The antitrust status of the business of baseball as a whole thus remained unaddressed by federal legislation, leaving the scope of the exemption to the interpretations of federal and state courts.

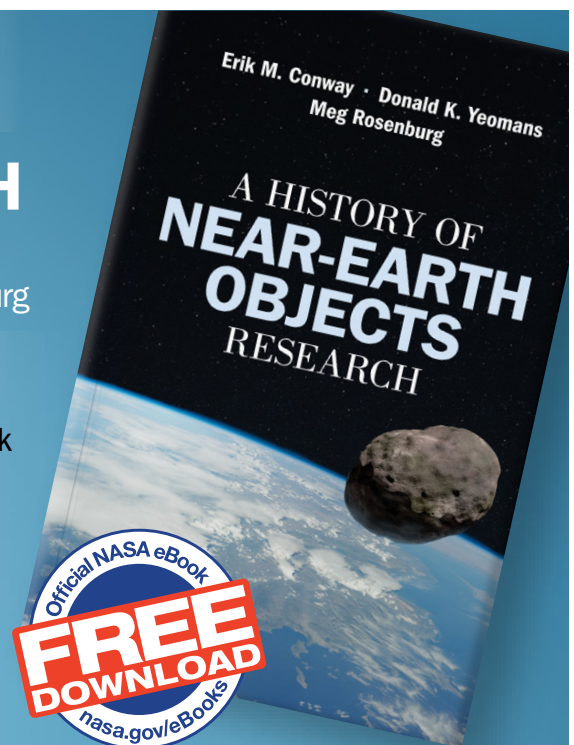
For more information, contact [history@ffc.gov](mailto:history@ffc.gov).



## A HISTORY OF NEAR-EARTH OBJECTS RESEARCH

By Erik M. Conway, Donald K. Yeomans, and Meg Rosenburg

In 2016, NASA took on a new responsibility: defending our planet from devastating impacts by asteroids and comets that approach Earth, or near-Earth objects. That event, which followed the prominent Chelyabinsk meteor explosion in 2013, reflected a growing interest in, and concern about, the threat of celestial impacts. In ancient times, the solar system's small bodies—asteroids and comets—were sometimes seen as ill omens and warnings from the gods. In modern times, they have come to be seen as the solar system's rubble, leftovers from its formation, but they were still largely ignored until the late 20th century. Increasingly, they have been seen by scientists as objects worthy of study, by the general public and the U.S. government as potential threats to be mitigated, and by space advocates as future resources. This book tells the fascinating story of these reinterpretations and NASA's role in them.



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## Fine Art Photography as an Innovative Medium for Conveying History to the Public

By Xiomáro. All photographs by Xiomáro.

Cancer opened new worlds. It forced me to evaluate how far I have come and – in the event of survival – where I should be heading. Thankfully, the surgeon successfully removed the adenocarcinoma after which I proceeded to cut out the other cancers growing in my life: toxic personal and work relationships quashing a sense of fulfillment.

Theodore Roosevelt, the noted conservation president who saved approximately 230 million acres of parks, forests, and preserves, believed in the restorative powers of nature. During recovery, I came to appreciate those powers as I explored the National Parks through a silent new friend – the camera. Gradually, I regained my physical and psychological footing and began a new life dedicated to using my photography in a meaningful way. But how and where?

It would be several years of wandering on both nature trails and urban sidewalks before I became aware of the National Park Service’s Artist-in-Residence program. Since its establishment in 1916, the program has offered creative talent – such as photographers, painters, writers, and musicians – artistically cloistered sabbaticals through which to draw inspiration from the historical, cultural, and environmental resources located at dozens of participating parks.

Residencies can be a wonderfully inclusive incubator for new talent, which is hardly possible through the elitist circle of art guilds, patrons, galleries, and museums. Some artists, like myself, identify with Vincent Van Gogh who viewed himself as a “nobody” desiring to produce “something serious, something fresh – something with soul in it” that would reach beyond the cognoscenti and directly to ordinary working people. My acceptance into one of the Artist-in-Residence programs gave me the time to fine-tune my creative vision and technical know-how. It also provided a respite to reflect on the “how and where” of using my photography in a meaningful way.

It was helpful that the program made me feel connected to a long tradition of artists – especially photographers such as Carleton Watkins, Eadweard Muybridge, and William Henry Jackson – whose creative output inspired common working people and, by extension, the Congress, to protect iconic American sites that now comprise the National Park system. Through their lens, many around the world are familiar with the awesome vistas of Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, or the Redwoods out west. But there is a bigger story to tell.

There are equally compelling, albeit smaller, sites located in the northeast that chronicle America’s rise from a colony to a nascent republic developing its place in world politics and culture. Attractive scenery would certainly have a supporting role in my photographs. But the main characters would be the



*George Washington's conference room.*

historic structures occupied by long-deceased transformational leaders and the lesser-known residents who supported them. I can resurrect their spirits through the images I create of their homes, workplaces, material possessions, and the surrounding landscape. A photograph artistically presenting the very rooms where George Washington restlessly forged his battle plans can arouse a sense of the sublime as much as a photograph of Yosemite’s El Capitan.

Plaques, markers, brochures, websites, films, and tours are some of the common word-based vehicles for relaying historical information to the public. Indeed, I have written and displayed text panels as introductions to my exhibits along with detailed labels accompanying each photograph to help guide the viewer through a specific narrative. Each time, it was a struggle to author concise, historically accurate descriptions that would beckon visitor attention. At times, I have supplemented such terse captions with QR codes leading to special pages on my website, YouTube videos I have produced, or downloadable e-books I have written for a fuller historical account.

But the images by themselves also transmit information that transcends words. Good artists know how to exploit the compositional vocabulary of line, light, color, mass, and space, for example, to suggest abstract, nuanced ideas and feelings. This unique quality of the visual medium was not lost on Leonardo da Vinci who, in comparing a poet’s work with painting, opined that “your body would be overcome by sleep and hunger before you can describe with words what a painter is able to show you in an instant.”

In 2017, I created a photographic collection of the Jacob Ford Mansion at New Jersey’s Morristown National Historical Park. A casual visitor might leave the park with only an

awareness of how George Washington used the house as his military headquarters during the 1779-1780 winter encampment. My photographs, however, were created to also highlight the mansion's domestic aspects – its essence as a home for five generations of Fords – which are easily lost in the shadow of the leader of the American Revolutionary War. These photographs were exhibited at the park's museum with an introductory text panel candidly challenging visitors to “move beyond our perceived expectations of the house and let it speak to us without the running dialog we generally supply.”

In 2018, I dipped into that same Ford Mansion collection for an exhibit at Women's Rights National Historical Park in New York. This time, I repurposed my photographs to introduce a new name – Theodosia Ford – to a public that may be hard-pressed to think of an important woman of the American Revolution other than Betsy Ross. Included with the images was a brief fictional diary I wrote, based on actual dates and facts, dramatizing the sacrifices Jacob Ford's young widow and her four children endured after voluntarily ceding control of the house to Washington and his entourage. The idea was to inspire viewers to cast their own imaginations on the photographs. Later, in 2021, Fox Nation produced a special on Theodosia Ford. When the mansion closed because of the pandemic, my photographs were the only interior images used to illustrate her story.

Even an individual photograph extracted from the context of related images in a collection can be illuminating. To be able to examine, for example, a large, sharply detailed photograph of a Founding Father's signature creates a visceral personal connection with the reality of his existence. Historical figures and events come alive from the flattening otherness of an academic textbook. The signature was on the flyleaf of a book that is rarely, if ever, on public display. So it was with quiet delight that I observed a visitor tracing the handwriting in the air with an imaginary quill. Single images with the capacity to spark such a response outlast the exhibit and live on as world-traveling ambassadors when posted on social media, published in a book or news media article, or kept as a framed print at a home or office.

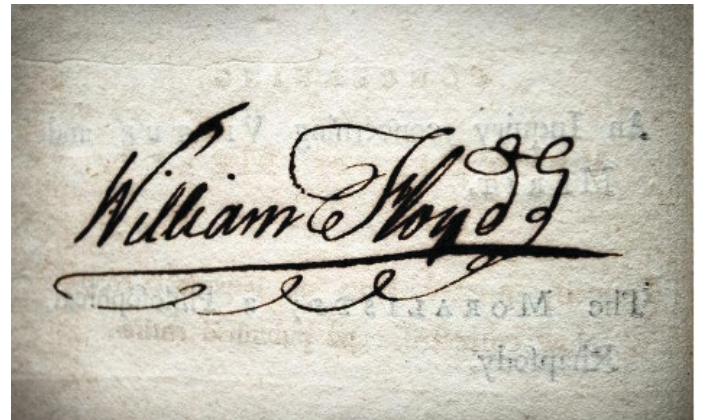
The four corners of the camera's frame are also a way for an artist to extract a feature from the context of the subject's whole. This isolation gets heightened because the image, by its very nature, is stripped of extraneous sensory distractions – smelling, tasting, touching, hearing – and forces visitors to concentrate their consumption of the image through the remaining sense of seeing. In doing so, the hidden beauty becomes revealed even to the experienced eye.

This is especially evident in a photograph that was part of a collection I created for New York's Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, the home and summer White House of President Theodore Roosevelt. There was an area in Roosevelt's famous North Room that I knew visitors are unlikely to see very well from the stanchions because it is in a far dark corner. Even if

Right: *Ford Mansion bedroom.*



Below: *The only known image of William Floyd's signature other than viewing the Declaration of Independence.*



they could see it, there are too many objects to focus on and a tour does not provide enough time for a studied gaze. I photographed a close-up of the wallpaper there because I liked the colors and its whimsical pattern of two peacocks facing each other. The superintendent shared his excitement over what apparently was a “discovery.” The peacocks had not been noticed before by him or anyone on the staff. It is one of the reasons why the *New York Times* described my photographs as “an unorthodox look at a president's home” and “artworks rather than...mundane documentation...focus[ing] on striking details.”

Even when the area is freely accessible for exploration by the public, an artistically composed photograph can draw attention to conditions or suggest a mood that may go unnoticed. Boston Harbor Islands National Recreational Area is home to several abandoned forts. Visitors are welcome to enter the ruins such as those at Fort Warren located on Georges Island. But the vast majority of homeward-bound day-trippers missed the ambience I experienced and preserved with my camera as I stood alone in the demilune during sundown. With the light streaming into the cavernous stone archways, a personal



Above: *Dual peacocks in Theodore Roosevelt's wallpaper*

Right: *Fort Warren demilune at Georges Island.*



interpretation can be triggered. One, perhaps, may conjure a vigilant forlorn soldier from any number of wars during the 100 years the fort was in service.

Such is the power of the artistically composed still image. The photograph captures a reality. But the reality captured is only of a rectangular or square portion of a moment in time, not necessarily to scale, reduced to two dimensions and devoid of four senses. As a result, the reality is imbued with mystery and layers of meaning. As noted by Susan Sontag, “[t]o photograph is to confer importance,” which provides inexhaustible invitations for understanding.

Ever-developing digital platforms together with pre-existing print media have raised the importance of imagery more than ever before. Much of it is flooded with generic snapshots impulsively taken and uploaded with the ubiquitous smartphone. As we approach the nation’s semiquincentennial in 2026, we can seize those resources with thoughtful, artistically commanding photographs to educate adults and children everywhere about the history that gave rise to our federal institutions. The preservation of those institutions – whether they be for the protection of rights, national defense, or the advancement of science – is as important today as the western landscapes that Watkins, Muybridge, and Jackson helped to save in their day.

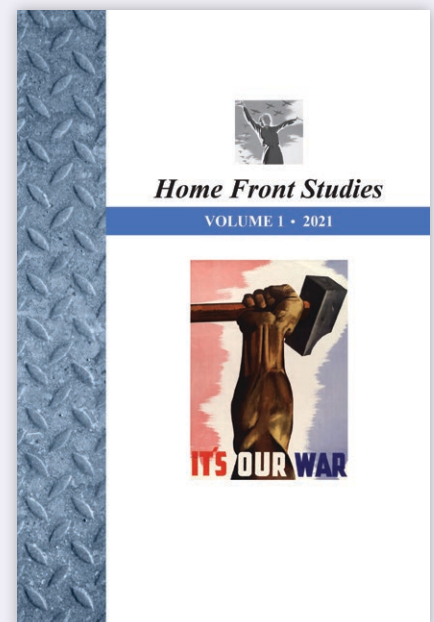
*Xiomáro (SEE-oh-MAH-ro) is an attorney, a nationally exhibited artist, and the author of Weir Farm National Historic Site (Arcadia Publishing). His website is [www.xiomaro.com](http://www.xiomaro.com).*

## New Journal: *Home Front Studies*

This new journal publishes scholarly research whose focus is the context of the home front, broadly considered, in times of war, civil war, and similar conflicts. Its scope is international. The interdisciplinary editorial board is open to submissions from scholars located across the humanities. The time period covered by *Home Front Studies* extends from the late nineteenth century to the present. The first issue is online at [nebraskapressjournals.unl.edu/journal/home-front-studies](http://nebraskapressjournals.unl.edu/journal/home-front-studies).

Members of the editorial board, often in consultation with guest reviewers, assess submitted manuscripts in accordance with the guidelines above. It is a double-anonymous process that ordinarily takes three months. If a work is accepted for publication, the editorial staff will edit it according to space limitations and editorial guidelines, in consultation with the author. Copyright for published material belongs to the University of Nebraska Press.

Address correspondence concerning manuscripts to James J. Kimble via email at [james.kimble@shu.edu](mailto:james.kimble@shu.edu). Surface mail should go to James J. Kimble, College of Communication & the Arts, Seton Hall University, 400 South Orange Ave., South Orange NJ 07936 USA. The journal does not accept unsolicited reviews of books, movies, or exhibitions. Please contact the review editor, Pearl James, to discuss potential review assignments: [pearl.james@uky.edu](mailto:pearl.james@uky.edu).





## Making History

### NASA

NASA is excited to announce that Dr. Brian Odom has been selected as NASA's next Chief Historian. Brian took over the office in an acting capacity in August 2020 after Dr. Bill Barry retired.

Before taking on those additional responsibilities, Brian was the historian at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville from 2016 until he took on the acting lead position. If you have ever dealt with Brian, you know he is not only knowledgeable, but also friendly, cooperative, and willing to do what it takes to help find the answer to your question.

Brian is the co-editor of *NASA and the 'Long' Civil Rights Movement*, which was awarded the 2019 Eugene M. Emme Astronautical Literature Award by the American Astronautical Society. He is also the editor of the forthcoming works *NASA and the American South* and *Rise of the Commercial Space Industry*.

In March 2022, Brian received the NASA Silver Achievement Medal for outstanding contributions in preserving and communicating the agency's rich history, especially NASA's role in promoting civil rights, diversity, and social justice. Brian holds a Ph.D. in Public History from Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, as well as a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. Brian was born and raised in Uriah, Alabama.

### National Archives

Acting Archivist of the United States Debra Steidel Wall announced in December that the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the George W. Bush Foundation have reached final agreement to move forward with fundamental changes to the relationship between the Foundation and the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. Under the signed agreement, the museum as well as the volunteer program will officially transfer from NARA to the Foundation on January 1, 2023. The agreement includes plans to digitize the Presidential records of the George W. Bush administration to make these materials discoverable and usable by the broadest possible audience.

NARA will retain all responsibility for the legal and physical custody of the records and artifacts at the Library and will control all access to them. NARA will provide records and artifacts to the George W. Bush Foundation for display in the museum through NARA's loan program. In addition, NARA will continue to lead the education program at the Library and remains committed to civic literacy and education both locally and at a national level.

This decision comes after extensive review and discussion among the staff with the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, NARA, and Foundation leadership. In July, the Committee requested the transfer be paused, raising concerns that it would diminish NARA's ability to ensure Presidential

materials and historic artifacts are presented in a fair and balanced manner. In discussions through the summer and fall, a supplemental agreement was drafted that requires:

- the Foundation to solicit historian and NARA input into major changes to the permanent exhibition galleries;
- NARA and the Foundation to establish signage that will distinguish between NARA and Foundation spaces;
- NARA to use Trust Funds to digitize the archival collections of the library to enable public access; and
- the next Archivist of the United States to provide input on the implementation of the new requirements.

NARA and the Foundation have executed a Memorandum of Understanding to include the agreed-upon terms of the supplemental agreement. NARA will now implement the Joint Use and Operating Agreement dated April 27, 2022, with an effective date of January 1, 2023.

Under this agreement, no NARA staff will lose their jobs or change duty stations. NARA will work closely with the George W. Bush Foundation to ensure there is no impact to NARA's customers as a result of this change and to continue NARA's important work.

This change is a result of NARA's efforts, in the wake of long-term budget challenges, to evaluate how services are provided and to assess the sustainability of current structures. It also reflects NARA's intent, with regard to museum operations, for the administrations of George W. Bush forward. NARA remains committed to the Presidential Library system, and no changes to the museums from the Hoover through Clinton administrations are being contemplated.

Today's announcement will position NARA to maximize limited resources and to continue to promote the understanding of the Presidency and the American experience through the Presidential Library system and enhanced access to Presidential records.

National Archives Presidential Libraries and Museums promote understanding of the Presidency and the American experience. They preserve and provide access to historical materials, support research, and create interactive programs and exhibits that educate and inspire. The Presidential Library system is composed of 15 Presidential Libraries. These facilities are overseen by the Office of Presidential Libraries in the National Archives and Records Administration.

### Richard W. Leopold Prize

The Richard W. Leopold Prize is given biennially by the Organization of American Historians to historical scholarship that focuses on America and the world, military affairs, historical

activities of the federal government, documentary histories, or biography created by a U.S. government historian or federal contract historian. These subjects cover the concerns and the historical fields of activity of the late Professor Leopold, who was president of the OAH 1976–1977. Eligible projects for the Leopold Prize can be books or edited volumes, but they can also include other forms of historical scholarship and documentation including public history projects, exhibitions, podcasts, documentary film, and digital history projects. We invite entries that explore the multiple forms of engagement in the spheres of America in the world and U.S. military history or address the diversity of federal government activities and of biographical subjects. Entries could explore, but are not limited to, high politics, the state and political economies along with social and cultural history, imperial history, Indigenous history, and transnational histories of racial formation, gender and sexuality, or labor.

The prize was designed to improve contacts and interrelationships within the historical profession where an increasing number of history-trained scholars hold distinguished positions in governmental agencies and museums. The prize recognizes the significant historical work being done by historians outside the academy. More information is available at [www.oah.org/awards/book-awards/richard-w-leopold-prize/](http://www.oah.org/awards/book-awards/richard-w-leopold-prize/).

### Veterans Administration

#### 2022 Year in Review - A Lot With A Little

From our start, the mission of the VA History Office has been to tackle two big, but complementary, tasks simultaneously:

- 1.) Stand up a VA History Program to provide basic information and services typical of most governmental history offices (a primarily virtual undertaking).
- 2.) Advance the VA's commitment to establishing a National VA History Center (NVAHC) to preserve our historic materials (primarily a "brick and mortar" project).

In 2022 we established our ability to grow our constituency, provide basic support, and implement the processes needed to manage both missions. We also acquired some of the essential equipment and systems needed to preserve and share materials.

The official VA History initiative includes our Administration Historian partners and the VA History Office (VAHO) team. The VAHO team still numbers just three full-time staff members (plus one volunteer, five interns, and VA staff on loan to VAHO). For a new, small office, the ability of our Program to begin providing the service support and products demonstrates the value of an institutional history initiative.

This initial operational ability allowed the VA History Program to answer over 100 formal inquiries from internal and external sources (imagine historical questions like, "When did the VA...?, How did the VA ...?, or Who was the VA employee who...?"). Our website – a way to share VA history in advance of



a physical museum and archive – now has over 14,000 average monthly page views. Our special running virtual exhibit, *The History of VA in 100 Objects*, has been particularly successful. History Office outreach has also included presentations, academic panels, site visits, and assistance to VA and community partners.

Significantly more complex in terms of resources, planning, and partnership, the NVAHC mission also gained ground in the last 12 months. The Core Project Team (led by our Curator, Kurt Senn, and including our Administration Historians and the VAHO team) worked with our contracted museum design firm to complete the Interpretive Master Plan (IMP) in December. A 15-month effort, the IMP is our roadmap for museum themes and space, serving as the cornerstone for future detailed exhibit design work.

A fresh discovery of additional deterioration in one of the NVAHC historic buildings posed a challenge that transformed into a new opportunity. Engineers discovered additional deterioration in the Old Headquarters, Building 116, that required significant remediation and delay if used as the museum space. This finding led to a revised approach as we now have the option to use nearby open space for a newly constructed museum, while also still including Building 116 as part of the NVAHC.

Thanks to Dayton VAMC leadership, Building 401 is our temporary storage site for the first notable historic items from around VA, and the home for the initial equipment obtained to preserve these artifacts and archives. In 2022 Building 401 also provided a place to host visits by the Deputy Secretary of the VA, the Under Secretary of Memorial Affairs, and a variety of local officials and partners.

Progress on our dual missions -- the Program and the NVAHC -- positions us for an eventful 2023. Thanks as always for your interest, partnership, and support.

*Mike Visconage*  
VA Chief Historian

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### **"Black History Month" from page 5**

#### Upcoming Events:

Historically Speaking: Comrade Sisters: The Women of the Black Panther Party – An Evening with Stephen Shames and Ericka Huggins

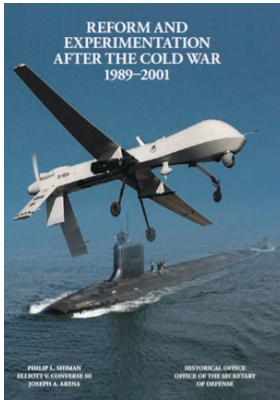
*Tuesday, January 31, 2023 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*  
Concourse, Oprah Winfrey Theater + streaming

Historically Speaking: Next Generation of Black Leaders in Geneticists

*Thursday, February 23, 2023 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*  
Heritage Hall, National Museum of African American History and Culture

For more information on these events, visit [nmaahc.si.edu/events/series/historically-speaking](http://nmaahc.si.edu/events/series/historically-speaking).

## Recent Publications



*Reform and Experimentation after the Cold War* by Philip L. Shiman, Elliott V. Converse III, and Joseph A. Arena, is the fifth volume in the series, *History of Acquisition in the Department of Defense*, produced by the Historical Office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. It documents efforts in the late 1980s and 1990s aimed at enabling the U.S. military to better support the development and production of major weapon systems.

The reforms and initiatives discussed throughout the volume drew on several long-standing trends: the Defense Department's almost continuous pursuit of technological advantage since World War II, the centralization of acquisition management authority in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Congress's push for greater oversight, a faith among public officials in the benefits of adopting private-sector management techniques, and an increasing frustration with weapon programs that fell short of cost, schedule, and performance expectations. The George H.W. Bush administration came to power with an emphasis on discipline and decentralized execution, and a mandate to fully implement the Goldwater-Nichols reforms of the late 1980s. The end of the Cold War, the resulting uncertainty about future defense requirements, and the pressure to reduce spending brought these diffuse trends together in a broad program of acquisition reform during the William J. Clinton administration. As the authors deftly show in numerous case studies, those reforms met with mixed success. Taken as a whole, however, the reforms made the acquisition community better able to adopt innovations and best practices from the private sector, more responsive to the users of systems, and more capable of designing policies, organizations, and procedures to address the security threats of the twenty-first century.

*Reform and Experimentation* was written by Philip L. Shiman, a consultant and contractor in military history with a doctorate in history from Duke University; Elliott V. Converse III, a retired Air Force colonel with a doctorate in history from Princeton University; and Joseph A. Arena, the Senior Historian, Leadership Support for the Historical Officer, Office of the Secretary of Defense. He received his doctorate from The Ohio State University. The volume is available online through the OSD Historical Office website: [history.defense.gov/Publications/Acquisition-History/](https://history.defense.gov/Publications/Acquisition-History/).

From the Smithsonian website: *The Handbook of North American Indians* series—the most monumental summary of knowledge on indigenous peoples of the USA, Canada, and Northern Mexico—was designed by the staff of the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) Department of Anthropology in the 1960s and, in 2022, culminates with Volume 1, edited by Igor Krupnik. Involving more than 70 contributors from the United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and Germany, including indigenous contributors from across North America, the volume's 35 chapters and more than 7,400 bibliography entries, Volume 1 presents new perspectives on the history of North America's indigenous societies, issues facing North American indigenous communities in the 21st century, a thorough update of the studies of Native American indigenous peoples, and the first-ever history of the Handbook project. Volume 1 is an innovative collection of new contributions written in 2015–2017 and is organized in five sections that reflect the series' three-pronged mission: to look forward, to update and assess developments in Native American research, and to account for the history of the Handbook initiative and its legacy. With Volume 1, the Handbook of North American Indians series concludes. The volume is available from the Smithsonian Institution online at [smithsonian.figshare.com/articles/book/Handbook\\_of\\_North\\_American\\_Indians\\_Volume\\_1\\_Introduction/21262173](https://smithsonian.figshare.com/articles/book/Handbook_of_North_American_Indians_Volume_1_Introduction/21262173).

*Approaches to Federal Judiciary History*, edited by Gautham Rao, Winston A. Bowman, Clara J. Altman was published in 2020 by the Federal Judicial Center,



the “research and education agency of the judicial branch.” As explained on the website, “This volume presents recent scholarship on the history of the federal court system. The main themes include the practices and importance of the lower federal courts, the relationship between district and circuit courts and the Supreme Court, and the broader role of the federal court system in American economy and society.” Among the many interesting chapters is “Slavery and Emancipation in the Federal Courts,” by Aaron Hall. He concludes that “In the long history of U.S. slavery and the troubled history of freedom that followed, federal courts were not emancipatory forums. They were instruments of governance at the heart of the American state.” The volume is available for download at [www.fjc.gov/content/343372/approaches-federal-judicial-history](https://www.fjc.gov/content/343372/approaches-federal-judicial-history).



# The FEDERALIST

Society for History in the Federal Government Newsletter

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## Federalist Calendar

**Mar 22-26, 2023. American Society for Environmental History.** Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. [www.aseh.org/Events](http://www.aseh.org/Events)

**Mar 23–26, 2023. Society for Military History.** 89th Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. [smh-hq.org/conf/futuremeetings.html](http://smh-hq.org/conf/futuremeetings.html)

**Mar 30–Apr 2, 2023. Organization of American Historians.** Annual Meeting. “Confronting Crises: History for Uncertain Times.” Los Angeles, CA. [www.oah.org/meetings-events/oah23](http://www.oah.org/meetings-events/oah23)

**Apr 12-15, 2023. National Council on Public History.** Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. [ncph.org/future-meetings](http://ncph.org/future-meetings)

**Jun 1-2, 2023. Society for History in the Federal Government.** Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. [www.shfg.org/Events](http://www.shfg.org/Events)

**Jun 7-9, 2023. Policy History Conference.** Columbus, OH. [jph.asu.edu/](http://jph.asu.edu/)

**Jun 8-10, 2023. Agricultural History Society.** Annual Meeting. “Agricultural Pasts of the Climate Crisis.” Knoxville, TN. [www.aghistsociety.org/2023-meeting](http://www.aghistsociety.org/2023-meeting)

**Jun 15-17, 2023, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.** Annual Conference. Arlington, VA. [shafr.org/shafr2023](http://shafr.org/shafr2023).

**Jul 13-16, 2023. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic.** 44th Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. [www.shear.org/future-conferences/](http://www.shear.org/future-conferences/)

**Jul 22-23, 2023. North American Society for Intelligence History.** Annual Conference. University of Calgary. [www.intelligencehistory.org/conference](http://www.intelligencehistory.org/conference)

**Jul 22-29, 2023. Society of American Archivists.** 87th Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. [www2.archivists.org/conference](http://www2.archivists.org/conference)

**Oct 2023. Oral History Association.** Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD. [oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/](http://oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/)

**Oct 23-26, 2023. Western History Association.** Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA. [www.westernhistory.org/2023](http://www.westernhistory.org/2023)

**Oct 25-29, 2023. Society for History of Technology.** Annual Meeting. Long Beach, CA. [www.historyoftechnology.org/annual-meeting/2023-shot-annual-meeting-october-2023-long-beach-california/](http://www.historyoftechnology.org/annual-meeting/2023-shot-annual-meeting-october-2023-long-beach-california/)

**Nov 9-12, 2023. History of Science Society.** Annual Meeting. Portland, OR. [hsonline.org/page/futurepastmeetings](http://hsonline.org/page/futurepastmeetings)